PARTHENISSA,

A ROMANCE.

In Four Parts.

Dedicated to the Lady

NORTHUMBERLAND,

And the Lady

SUNDERLAND.

The Fourth Part.

LONDON,
Printed for *Henry Herringman*, and are to be sold at his Shop at the *Anchor* in the Lower Walk of the *New-Exchange.* 1655.

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PARTHENISSA.

THE SECOND PART.

THE FIFTH BOOK.

THe generous Artavaſdes had no ſooner finiſht his ſtorie, (which had produc'd no common operations in the hearers) than Artabbanes told him; If the ſin of not beleeving Artavaſdes were not greater, than the vanitie of beleeving my ſword could contribute to a victorie his was acting, I ſhould not make the laſt of thoſe my faith; which ſince to avoid the firſt I muſt doe, I ſhall to extenuate the ne-

ceſſitie of that crime, proteſt, That I will no more exclaime againſt the gods, for having ſo extraordinarily preſerved me from death, ſince now I finde 'twas to preſerve Artavaſdes from it; for whom I am ſo juſtly concern'd, that I ſhall cheriſh the continuation of my miſeries, if they contribute to the continuation of his life; which, though repleniſht with many ſenſible misfortunes, yet are as far ſhort of mine, as an unhappineſs that time, and many accidents may, cure, is of one, which the very Gods themſelves cannot. If (ſaid Artavaſdes) my miſeries 'till now were not equall to yours, this aſſurance has made them ſo, for the acceſſion to my paſt misfortunes, that yours tranſcend them, gives mine the Precedencie. Callimmachus who apprehended, this generous diſpute would ſuſpend him from learning, what would enable him to determine of it; acquainted them with his feates; to which Artabbanes told him; Alas Sir, I ſhall by not obeying you, doe it; for by not being able to tell you what ſhould determine it, you cannot but doe it on my ſide; I am alſo the more concern'd in this victorie, ſince by

the

the losse of it, I shalbe depriv'd of this only consolation in my miseries, that my generous friends are not equall to them. But the Night being alreadie too-far spent to begin a fresh relation, he not only perswaded them to deferr their curiositie 'till the next morning, but also to permit Symander to satisfie it; whose fidelitie had render'd him an unsuspected hearer of Artavasdes's Adventures, and whose interest in his Princes life, and secrets, render'd him a fit Relator of them. Callimmachus and Artavasdes having expreſt a greater sorrow, that Artabbanes was not able to tell his own storie, than that he did it not, and a little time being spent in discourses of that qualitie, (and of the different opinions they all had what could make the Prince of Parthia so intent upon Artavasdes's Death, as to hire Assassinates to act it, which he had told Callimmachus & Artabbanes one of them had confest with his last breath.) The generous Priest took leave of the two Friends, not only to affoard them a libertie which he apprehended his companie something limitted, but also to perform some ceremonies of his office, and to be the

earlier readie to summon Symander of an engagement which he in part had alreadie so well satisfi'd, that it gave him a just impatience 'till he had done it entirely. The night therefore had no sooner resign'd hir Empire to the Sun, than Callimmachus came to Artabbanes, & Artavasdes Appartment, where he found that his fear of Incivilitie proceeded from a different cause, than from that he apprehended, for the latter of them was so far from beleeving it too-early, that he had alreadie expected him above an hour, with all the impatiencies of a concern'd friend, & the former having left Symander to satisfie his promise, was alreadie retir'd into a Gallarie contiguous to his Chamber, to avoid the hearing of his unparalleld miseries, and of observing the influence they would necessarily have, over his generous friends. Symander by Artavasdes's command, seated himself between him, and Callimmachus, & there being summon'd by them both, to continue the Relation of his Princes Fortunes, having first remember'd the generous Armenian, that by his arrivall, he had been interrupted from the persecution of them at

their

their entrance into Rome, after the victorie of Crassus, from thence thus began his discourse, addressing it to Artavasdes.

The sequell of Parthenissa's and Artabbanes Story.

AFter that for the recoverie of your health, and the extenuating your grief for the loss of a Father, which but too justly merited it, you had retir'd for a few dayes to Ventidius's Palace, and that my Prince was assur'd by the Chyrurgions, his wounds were in such unfortunate places, that for at least two Moons he should be unable to travell. To oblidge the generous Sillaces, who was then perfectly recover'd, and to silence those feares, which so long an absence had doubtlesse contracted in the fair Partheniſſa, but especially in Lyndadorie, he conjur'd him to begin his journey into Parthia, and to leave his cure to the helpe of time, and of the Chyrurgions. Sillaces, though he were too much a Lover, not to esteem a separatiõ from his Mistress a misfortune; yet he was also too much a friend, to leave one that was

ſo to him, in ſo dangerous a place, & condition; and beſides, fearing Artabbanes had made him that requeſt, more to ſatisfie him, than himſelf, he abſolutely declin'd it; but when by many preſſing proteſtations my Prince had remov'd thoſe doubts, it was not long after, that Sillaces (taking the benefit of a Roman Gally, which was bound from Oſtia to Tyre) left Artabbanes, having firſt concluded amongſt themſelves of what he ſhould ſay, and doe in Parthia, and having receiv'd from him a letter to the fair Lyndadory, ſo fill'd with approbations, and extolments of hir election, and of implorings in his favour, and advantage, that had ſhe but only lov'd hir Brother, ſhe could not but have done the like to hir Servant. 'Twas by my Princes command that I waited on the generous Sillaces to Oſtia, where having ſeen him aboard, I return'd to Rome the ſame day, & paſſing by the Capitoll to goe to Artabbanes's lodging, I perceiv'd at the gate of it, a great confluence of people; my curioſitie led me to enquire the cauſe of it from one who told me, it was from a Salapian Lord, who had begg'd of the Senate, the

head

head of Spartacus, which he was then taking downe. This information made me imagine 'twas the generous Perolla, who I soon after perceiv'd all in mourning in a Chariot that was so, and neere him the fair Izadora; in the same Livorie, like the Sun in a cloud, I must confess, I had a thousand pains to abstaine from running to acquaint them with a Truth, their ignorance of which, produced such sad, and noble effects; but the belief, that the discoverie of it, was fitter to proceed from my obedience, than me, and would in that qualitie be better relisht by them, I went hastily to my Prince, and having given him an accompt of what I have you; with all the impatience which so just a concerne could inspire, he immediately commanded me to goe, & acquaint the generous Lovers where he was, and assure them, that had his wounds permitted him to pay them a visit, no other impediment should have suspended him from that dutie. As soon as I had received this order, I went to obey it, and though I came immediately after to the place where I had left them, I learnt, that having taken down the Senates grant, they were return'd

with

with it to their Lodging, which having inquir'd out, I went thither, and sent up one of their Domesticks to let them know, a stranger desir'd the honor of seeing thē, who had something of importance to acquaint them with. I stay'd not long for an answer, or admittance, and as soon as I came into the chamber, I perceiv'd the generous Lovers weeping many reall tears, over the counterfeit head of my Prince; but after that by the little noise I made, they had turn'd their sight towards me, & perceiv'd who I was; the faire Izadora by some shreeks, and a more violent weeping, demonstrated, that hir seeing of me, brought some fresh, and more sensible reflections into hir memorie, than a disfigur'd, and unknowable part of Spartacus had done; but Perolla, whose Sex dispenc't him from a proportionate excess in those effeminacies, came towards me, and told me; You see Symander, that the cruell Gods having allow'd us no other way but this, to evince our gratitude to your generous Master, we have not declin'd it; we have now nothing but this part of him, and his memorie left us, which we will cherish at a rate,

that

that those which know it, shalbe convinc't by what we doe, what we would have done, had our powers of gratitude proportionated our cause, or our desires of it; which last we cannot more highly, or justly illustrate, than by assuring you, they equall the first; and in our transcendent losse we should receive some little relaxation, if one who Spartacus did so much esteeme of as Symander, would so much esteeme of us, as to passe his life with those who during their owne, will eternally deplore the losse of his generous Master's. Sir, (I reply'd,) I should be too-unworthy so noble an offer, had I surviv'd him in whose consideration 'tis made; No generous Perolla, Spartacus lives, and does so, so much the more happily, by how much he knowes his life is considerable to you, and will put a period to a griefe nothing can repaire, or equall, but his when I shall acquaint him with yours, and the faire Izadoras.

Thereupon I made them that complement my Prince had commanded me, which they no sooner heard, than in raptures as far transcending repetition, as imitation, they

both conjur'd me to bring them to a perſon, who by the obligations of gratitude, and virtue, they acknowledg'd themſelves equally confin'd to admire, and eſteeme. 'Twas by this time, about the cloſe of the Evening, ſo that without any hazard they might give my Prince a viſit, which when I had told them, they immediately went in their Chariot (taking me only with them) to my Prince's Lodging, where the generous Lovers continued their teares, though for a contrarie cauſe, to that for which they had uſually ſhed them. 'Twas in this interview (continued Symander) that Perolla acquainted Artabbanes, how that having heard of his fatall loſſe at the Battell of the Trenches, & that a Head as repleniſht with the gifts of the Minde, as of Nature, was ignominiouſly fixt on the Capitoll, both he, and Izadora, dreſſing their Bodies, in the livery of their Mindes, came purpoſely from Salapia, & had begg'd from the Senate the remainder of a perſon, who could not be more an Enemie to Rome, than a friend to Salapia, and them. The Senate, who alwayes eſteem'd of Gratitude, as knowing they had the greateſt

power

power to create it in any, & beleeving thoſe that had it for their Enemies, would not want it for them, in one action, to reward, and create ours, graunted our requeſt, with which we intended to returne, and to have raiſ'd ſuch a Trophie to this part of the dead Spartacus, as ſhould have evinced the juſt, & vaſte eſteeme we had of the Living. Perolla further told him, that ſince his leaving of Salapia, their Fathers had as much admir'd at their paſt differences, and cruelties, as others did at their preſent friendſhip, which was ſoe ſettl'd, and perfect, that it reliſht not a little of what had cauſ'd it; and that alreadie virtue was ſo habituall to them, that it appear'd rather an effect of their nature, than their change. Artabbanes by many embraces to the generous Perolla, and retributions to the fair Izadora, acknowledg'd their virtue, and goodneſſe, and proteſted he was more ſatisfy'd with their Fathers friēdſhip to them, than with theirs to him, ſince he was more concern'd in their ſatisfaction, than his owne; which they could not ſuſpect, ſince he evinc't it in the moſt pregnant teſtimonie.

But after ſome other diſcourſes of this nature, Artabbanes who remember'd the preſſing deſire the generous Lovers had demonſtrated to learne his qualitie, & Life, & that by the diſcovery of the faire Partheniſſa's Conſtancy, he eſteem'd himſelfe diſoblig'd from any longer ſilence, he acquainted them with it, who no ſooner heard of a Conceſſion his former denyall, and nothing elſe had ſuppreſt their imploringe, by freſh impatiencyes they invited my Prince to ſatisfy their longing. This he did, by telling them exactly all his Adventures, in which they ſo juſtly ſympathiz'd, that it invited him to doe the like, in the ioy they aſſum'd, at that happy intelligẽce he had ſo miraculouſly receiv'd from the generous Sillaces; Neither did they after the knowledge of my Princes quality, pay him any more reſpect, or affection; For their Gratitude, and Virtue, had render'd them uncapable of any acceſſions of that Nature.

I will not (ſaid Symander) ſo unneceſſarily intrench on your attentions, as to informe you how conſtantly every day the virtuous Salapians viſited Artabbanes, nor of the excellent

eellent entertainment their converſation gave him, for 'tis high time we ſhould leave that Italy, which had bin the Scene of ſuch diſcrepant events. To effect this the ſooner, I will informe you, that the generous Ventidius being return'd from the Gulph of Tarentum, came to my deare Maſter, & there acquainted him of what depriv'd him of the honor of your Company, which his Friendſhip for you, made him eſteem a greater misfortune, than the deprivation it ſelfe; and indeed Ventidius, to render your precipitate departure the more excuſable, render'd it ſo dangerouſly neceſſarie, that Artabbanes had eſteem'd the Misfortune of your having left him without cauſe, a leſs one. The generous Romane upon your ſcore, or that of virtue, ſo aſſiduouſly viſited, and ſerv'd my Prince, that his obligations had no unfruitfull returne, if their deſigne was to acquire him really his Friendſhip. At length after two Moons, my deare Maſters wounds were well-enough clos'd, to permit him to thinke of Parthia, and the Night before his deſign'd departure, Perolla (who apprehended, in a ſtrange Country, he might

not be ſufficiently provided) came and brought me the richeſt Iewells I had ever ſeene, and deſir'd me to carry them with me, to remedy any misadventure. I was much more ſatisfy'd with his care, than he was with my aſſurance, that Artabbanes had enough of them to ſupply his neceſſities, and with my proteſtations (after he had earneſtly preſt me to accept them for my ſelfe,) that I would carry away nothing of his, but the memory of his virtue. Perolla immediately after went to Artabbanes, with whom he had left the faire Izadora, where he conjur'd him before hir to permit his waiting on him into Parthia, ſince he, and the Gods, had left him no other way to demonſtrate his Gratitude, & affection. Artabbanes abſolutely refus'd this offer, and was much more troubl'd at the making it, than ever Izadora was.

My memory not ſerving me to repeate the generous Lovers finall Civilities, I will not ſo much wrong their excellence, as to dreſs them in my own expreſſions; The next day after this ſeparation, they return'd to Salapia with the falſe Spartacus's head, which (either to diſguiſe the Truth, or in honor

honor to any thing which bore that name) they cauſ'd magnificently to be buried, and ever after liv'd in the unimitable joys of a virtuous Love; and that thoſe cannot be tranſcended by any others, is not a greater Truth, than it is, that never any more juſtly deſerv'd them. The ſame morning my Prince left Rome, he went to Oſtia, where the obligeing Ventidius expected him, not dareing becauſe of his eminent qualitie, to wait on him thither, leſt it might have prov'd a dangerous Civilitie. There my Prince by Ventidius's favour found an excellent Gally, well fitted and Man'd, readie to receive him, and his Commands.

'Twas aboard, that theſe two great Men took leave, and 'twas in that ſeparation I discover'd charmes in the generous Romans Perſon, and diſcourſe, which could be no more reſiſted, than ſufficiently admir'd: at length having mutually vow'd a friendſhip as unalterable, as that they had for virtue, and confirm'd it by many ſtrict embraces, Ventidius return'd privately to Rome, and the whole Ginge immediatly with cheerfull ſhouts, and vigorous ſtroaks, made the Gal-

ly

ly run faſter than that River it had ſo lately abandon'd; but the Wind blowing a ſteadie gale at Weſt, exempted the Slaves from much labour, and ſo facilitated our intended voyage, that in twentie dayes we caſt Anchor in the River Orontes, which waſhes the walls of Antioch; whither the ſame night my Prince went, having largely rewarded, the Slaves, the Marriners and the Officers of Ventidius's Gally. At Antioch having furniſht our ſelves, with two excellent Arabian Horſes, and having learnt that the wayes thorough Syria, and Meſopotamia, were much obſtructed by Craſſus's Armie, which poſſeſt all the Bridges, and other conſiderable Paſſes, Artabbanes to avoid any probable impediments, determin'd to leave thoſe two Provinces, on the South, and ſo by the way of Armenia and Media to get into Parthia. This was by much the more ſecure courſe, and not very much the longer. We had alreadie perform'd ſo much of our journey, as to the Banks of the River Corindas which runs thorough Arſacca, one of the nobleſt Cities in Media, and were not paſt eight Furlongs from it, when from the height

height of a little Hill, we discover'd a fight; which though not very considerable for the Number of the Combatants, yet it was for those of the dead; for of above fourtie, Two only remain'd alive, which by the richnesse, and beautie of their Armes, but much more by their Courages, demonstrated themselves to be the Chiefe of either Partie. Not farre from the Scene where this Tragedy was acting, stood a Chariot whose Horses either by designe, or accident, were running up and down the field with their Harnesses broken, and in it was a Ladie, who we thought was the Iudge, or Reward of the Victorie, and who by what we could discerne of hir, when we came nearer (for she was vail'd) seem'd too, to be a worthy cause of soe generous a Dispute. My Prince extreamly taken with such courages, and beleeving to permit them to destroy each other, would be as great a Cryme in him, as in those which endeavour'd it, pulling downe the sight of his Helmet, he rid up, and thrust himselfe betweene them, where having receiv'd on his Shield, some Blowes which their furie intended for each other, he conjur'd them both, by what

they valu'd moſt, and by thoſe lives which, by what he had ſeene of them, were too-conſiderable to be fruitleſſely loſt; That unleſſe the Cauſe of their Quarrel were mortall, they would deſiſt from a fight, which would give both, or one of them wounds, which would prove ſoe. He that wore the greene Armes, either inrag'd to loſe that dawning advantage he had over his Enemie, or to be interrupted frō acting a Revenge he was very intent upō, told my Prince in a furious Tone; Who ever thou beeſt, that art ſo over-officious, know, that did I not beleeve thy care of my Enemy, proceeded from thy ignorance of his Crymes, I ſhould by thy defending a Perſon ſo repleniſht with them, leave the puniſhment of his, for the puniſhment of thine; which out of that beliefe, I will now omit; but if this declaration be not ſufficient to reſtraine thy Aſſiſtance, thou ſhalt finde thy Death, in thy miſtaken Charity. Then clapping Spurres to his Horſe, and ſtriking my Prince's with the flat of his Sword, he joyn'd againe his Adverſarie, & ſo inceſſantly preſt him, that before my Prince could come to puniſh the Conquer-

or,

or, or defend the vanquisht, the former had past his Sword thorough the latter; who by that fatall thrust let fall his owne, and his Bridle, employing both those hands which had held them, to hold himselfe in his Saddle; The Horse finding nothing to restraine him, rann with his wounded Rider up and downe the Field; he in the greene Armour, had doubtlesse made the Death of his Enemy, the end of his victory, had not Artabbanes run after him to hinder it, which so insenc't the Stranger; that leaving his old Enemy for his new, he only said, since by undertaking my Adversaries defence thou wilt partake of his Crimes, prepare thy selfe to doe the like of his punishment; And then with an active Rage, he discharg'd some furious blowes on Artabbanes, who mov'd by this fresh accession, to his former affront, receiv'd him so briskly, that the Stranger found he had undertaken a Quarrell far more difficult, than that he had so advantagiously, & lately decided. I knew too much the Lawes of Honor, and my Princes Courage, to offer him any assistance from Mine, and therefore only continu'd a Spectator of

a Combate, which though repleniſht with many admirable things, yet none appear'd ſo juſtly ſo to me, as that Artabbanes was ſoe long a conquering. I muſt confeſſe, his Adverſaries courage gave me inclinations for him, that the way in which he imploy'd it, might juſtly have exempted me from, and I had longer continu'd my admiration, had not I by chance caſting my Eye on the South-ſide of the little Plain we were in, perceiv'd Ten Horſe-men which came out of a Wood which confin'd it on that ſide; Two of them having obſerv'd the dangerous condition the wounded Gentleman was in, ran to his Aſſiſtance, one of them vaulting up behind him, up-held his tottering Bodie in his Armes, and the other leading his Horſe by the Head, retook (with their Charge) the way they had come; But the remaining Eight, came a gallop towards that place where my Prince, and the Stranger, were prodigally employing their valours againſt each other, which united were hardly able to ſecure them; Their being ſo intent on each others ruine, made them not conſider how neare their owne was, which to prevent,

I ridde up and acquainted them, with what their Eyes immediately did; wherefore the Stranger more concern'd in the Ladies safetie, than in his Revenge, or hopes of Victorie, immediately told Artabbanes; Valiant Stranger, The difference betwixt us, is not of soe high a concernment, but another time may serve to decide it, and having found in your sword a virtue worthy to serve so great a Beautie as these are coming to ravish from me; I shall not scruple to desire your assistance, or at least your neutralitie; but to invite you to the former, I protest, I present you with a higher glorie by the honor of serving hir, than your Victorie over me can affoard you; & perhaps by this concession, you will conquer me a more certain, and a more facile way, than that you have now undertaken. My Prince extreamly satisfi'd with this generous proceeding, told him, If I receive any trouble from what you motion, 'tis only lest you might think I grant that to your desire, which I would to your condition, or to the Beauties you soe resolutely defend; neither can you doubt by the cause of our present Dispute, that I

would not practice for you, what I did against you. Artabbanes had not time to give him any other assurances than what his sword did, and finding it necessarie, and just, to joyne with my Prince, I did it; our Enemies, though they lost at the first charge, two of their resolutest Companions, were not neare soe much surpriz'd thereat, as to see soe strange, and sudden an union against them; but this mysterie some of them had not Life enough left to unriddle, yet the others made so vigorous a resistance, that the Stranger had lost his Life, if my Prince by the death of one of his Enemies, (which was come behind him) had not hinder'd it; I had my share in the danger, & the Victory, the first by receiving some slight wounds, and the last by killing him which gave them me: In briefe, our Enemyes surviv'd not their defeate, for the Combate ended not but with their Lives. The Stranger had no sooner done acting towards, & observ'd this truth, than he came to my Prince, and lifting up his Helmett told him; Generous Stranger, since I hold my Sword from you, the Gods forbid I should employ it against

gainſt you; if I have now any deſignes upon you, they are not only by imitating you, to preſerve your Life by the hazard of mine, but if the occaſion'd were offered by the abſolute loſſe of it. The Stranger had ſcarce finiſht theſe words, when he found himſelfe in my Princes Armes, who by repeating twice or thrice the Name of Sillaces, made me know 'twas that generous Prince, whom he ſo paſſionatly embrac't. You may beleeve (continu'd Symander) this accident produc't no ſmall admiration in Artabbanes which was raiſ'd to a higher degree when Sillaces after knowing my Prince told him, 'twas upon his ſcore, he had then bin fighting, and that it was againſt Surena. When Artabbanes conſider'd he fought againſt his Friend for his Enemy, it rais'd in him ſome juſt repinings againſt the ſtrangeneſſe of his deſtiny; but as ſoone as he reflected on his Enemyes being the fair Zephalinda's Brother, they were immediatly ſilenc't; & if anything in this encounter afflicted him, 'twas, that he had drawne his Sword againſt Sillaces, and not that he had done it for Surena. My Prince aſſur'd his generous Friend of this,

who

who could not sufficiently admire at a Friendship so efficatious, as that it ran in a Blood; whē even one of it, had acted asmuch to create his hatred, as the other was capable of, for the raising his affection, and esteme. But Artabbanes, who was impatient of all discourses, but those which tended to the learning of his destiny in the faire Partheniſſa's Condition, earnestly implor'd from Sillaces an accompt of what he knew concerning it; who reply'd, that his absence in his search, had made him but from second hands, and confus'dly learne it, but that the Beauty his Sword had so much injur'd, & so much serv'd, could give him an exact relation of all. My generous Master, who was confirm'd by that Zeale with which Sillaces had embrac't hir Service, that it was Lindadory (though he could not fancy by what strange adventures she had left Parthia and needed his Sword) went with Sillaces to the Charriot; But great Gods! what was his surprize when he found the Beauty in it was the faire Partheniſſa? I cannot tell you with how many tremblings and prostrations he expreſt his joy, & wonder, before he could doe

doe either, by his words; nor can I tell you with what emotions the admirable Partheniſſa found, hir Deliverer, was a more tranſcendent felicitie than hir Deliverance. Never (continu'd Symander) never did any mortall, appeare ſoe like thoſe that are not; ſoe that if the Gods had not reſerv'd adoration for what only was a Deitie, and not for what merited to be one, my Prince muſt have converted a flame of Love, into one of Devotion. His Three yeares abſence had ſoe perfected thoſe morning Beauties, that the light which ſees every thing, never ſaw any ſo exactly accompliſht; in ſo much that had the Gods given eternitie to hir then Beautie, they could have given it no other acceſſion. Artabbanes who receiv'd hir Flames as faſt as hir Eyes inſpir'd them, was ſoe entirely taken up with that employment, that he continu'd ſilent as long almoſt, as I have bin ſpeaking; but no ſooner had his words the libertie of utterance, than he told the faire Partheniſſa, You ſee (Madam) proſtrate at your feet, the unfortunate, and happy Artabbanes, the laſt of theſe in having obtain'd your Pardon, & the firſt in having

needed it; you cannot (Madam) doubt of your Power, when, as an effect of it, after my Cryme, I dare present my selfe before my injur'd Princesse; But may I not feare I receiv'd this command from your Revenge, & not your Mercy, since to behold the Virtue, and Beautie I have wrong'd, is one of the most sensible punishments could be inflicted on me for having done it; and it had bin more just (if you had not esteem'd it otherwise because it was more easie for me,) to have executed your Revenge, than obey'd your Mercy; Neither is it a small Misfortune, that by a Cryme, I come to implore it for one; but yet by having fought against your Deliverance, you may discover my Sins against the divine Partheniſſa are not my Elections, but my Fate; for nothing but soe unresistable an impulsion, could have made me either doubt hir professions, and constancie, or fought against her Interests.

If (said Partheniſſa) the generous Artabbanes hazarded my Deliverance by his Sword, he has establisht it by the same weapon, and abundantly repair'd a small injury, by what acted it; and if he doubted my professions,

ſeſſions, and Conſtancie, he was ſo excellently deluded into that mistake, that it had bin a greater Miracle he had avoided thoſe thoughts, than that he aſſum'd them. I may profeſſe too with the ſame Truth, that I fear'd as much the diſcloſing of my Innocencie, as he deteſted my ſeeming want of it; for I knew the discoverie of his error, would but too-abundantly puniſh it; & I was more concern'd in his felicitie, than eſteeme, the later being an advãtage I wholy apropriated to my ſelfe, which alſo I could not, but by his extream prejudice. Ah Madam, (the raviſht Artabbanes reply'd) the more you diſcloſe your virtue, the more you manifeſt my Sin in having doubted it; and you increaſe the puniſhment thereof, by endeavouring to extenuate it; Tis upon that ſcore only, that I receive with joy what you now deliver, as I ſhall doe any thing of that qualitie with the ſame reception, that contributes to a ſuffering I cannot more deſerve, than I am ambitious to embrace; Yes faire Partheniſſa, if I have languiſht ſo long a Life after the evincement of my Cryme, 'twas becauſe I eſteem'd Death rather a Reward, than a Puniſhment

niſhment of it, and becauſe you commanded me to returne, which the more zealously I obey'd, becauſe in that obedience I evidenc't I would decline no other pennance could be inflicted on me, this tranſcending all others, as much as my offences does. But now Madam, that I have effected that command, let your next be, to become the Executioner of your Iuſtice; you will prove your Mercy greater in ſuch an impoſition, than in a Pardon, ſince the firſt will end a Life, which has loſt thoſe hopes which only gave it a reliſh; and the laſt by permiting me to ſee that bleſſing I have loſt, and which I can no more aſpire unto, without comiting as high a Sin by my preſumption, as by my doubts, will involve me in torments, that but to reflect on, will tranſcend the actuall operatiõs of all others. If (ſaid Partheniſſa) I am ſatisfy'd that you believe your ſelfe ſo great a Criminall, it proceeds only, that by my paſſing by your offences, you have the greater obligation to me; I am too-much concern'd in your Life to continue it in Torment, and the Gods have render'd me uncapable of that Injuſtice, without equally participating

participating in the effects of it; I doe therefore with your Pardon, returne you your hopes, and give you an assurance that Mine cannot have a more pleasing object, than that you will believe your Life is so undissolubly ty'd to mine, that the cares, or negligence you have of your owne, must produce resembling operations on Partheniſſa's. Great Gods! (reply'd Artabbanes) you are not so infinite as my Joy, or the mercy which has created it; neither of those know any limits, & your power does, by being uncapable but by them to make me value, or cherish my Life; Yes my Princesse (he continu'd, embraceing hir knees, and printing a Thousand burning kisses on hir hand) you have by so obligeing a declaration, invited the happy Artabbanes almost to approve his Sin, in rendring it the efficient cause of so transcendent an evincement of your favour, & made him as much in love with his Life, as with you, or as you are with virtue; and if ever he employes one moment of it but to celebrate your Mercy, may he repeat that Cryme which has so abundantly prov'd the vastnesse of it, or into higher punishments,

if the Gods were capable of inflicting on him, any that were ſo. It was (continu'd Symander) by an infinite Number of ſuch expreſſions, that theſe generous Lovers gave each other aſſurances of their being ſo, which being finiſht, the Princeſſe (who 'till then had bin ſo intent upon this admirable Adventure, that ſhe had omited to caſt hir Eyes on Sillaces, (who ſo prodigally had hazarded his Life to revenge and breake hir impriſonment) then did it, and being convinc't 'twas he, by his having lifted up his Helmet, ſhe made him retributions worthy what created them, which fill'd Artabbanes with new admirations, for he thitherto had thought that his Friend, and his Princeſſe (eſpecially by the former having addreſt him to the latter) had ſeene and converſt with one another before; (which by a rare accident they had not,) but during the Combate, my generous Maſter had receiv'd ſome wounds, which by the emotions of ſo paſſionate a converſation, were ſo inflam'd, and had ſo much bledd, that he began to give ſome ſymptome of fainting, which caſt Partheniſſa into one; the care of whoſe recovery,

very, created Artabbanes's: but as ſoone as ſhe was reſtor'd to hir-ſelfe becauſe of Sillaces wounds as well as my Princes, and that it was late, we reſolv'd to goe to Arſacia, which we eſteem'd a Place of ſecurity againſt the attempts of Surena's Partizans, ſhould they have any deſires of revenge, whilſt Sillaces, and Artabbanes wounds facilitated their acting it; I omit (ſaid Symander) purpoſely, thoſe favours the faire Partheniſſa honor'd me withall, which I had no ſooner receiv'd and acknowledg'd, than I went to a Countrey-houſe in ſight of the place where all that I have told you happen'd, and there by good Fortune lighted on a young fellow, who by often driving a Waggon, had ſome little skill in Drivinge a Chariot: with his helpe we got together the Horſes, & mended their Traces; but becauſe my Prince's, and his Friends wounds made it dangerous, and painfull to ride, by Partheniſſa's re-iterated imitations, they went into hir Chariot, and in that manner came in the cloſe of the Evening to Arſacia, where by the helpe of our young Peaſant (who was liberally rewarded) we got into a private Houſe, the Gates being

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alreadie lockt; and becauſe my wounds were ſo favourable as to permit me to pay my dutie, to thoſe my condition and inclination owed it, I went, and got a Chyrurgion who liv'd in the Suburbs, from whom I underſtood that the then Governour of Arſacia, was Zenophon, which was no ſmall ſatisfaction to Artabbanes, whom he had learnt from Moneſes, had ever bin a faithfull ſervant to all his Family. I muſt acknowledge my ſatisfaction at it was not inferior to his, for my Father, and Zenophon, were Couſin-Germanes, and yet had bin more united by Friendſhip, than by Blood; which obligation never ended but with my Fathers life. But before my Prince would permit his wounds to be dreſt, he waited on Partheniſſa to her Chamber.

'Twas there, by a world of reitterated, and paſſionate expreſſions, that he acknowledg'd his Cryme, and the Mercy that had produc'd it, which latter gave him a leſſe ill opinion of the former, by finding experimentally there could be ſomething that tranſcended it, which 'till ſo obligeing an evincement, had never enter'd into his Faith.

Artabba-

Artabbanes and Sillaces were no sooner retir'd, than they went to the woman of the House, who they found had bin blest with an education different to hir present qualitie, and of no common Beautie; they were not a little pleas'd with both, as knowing they render'd hir the fitter for a Service, which she joyfully went to pay the fair Partheniſſa. 'Twas after this, that the two Friends made use of the Chyrurgion, who found how great ã Enemie their Civilities had prov'd to their healths, and that the paying of their's (unseasonably) two houres would render them uncapable for many, to do the like. Artabbanes was much more troubl'd at this assurance, than at the danger which caus'd it. The Chyrurgion being retir'd, I told the two generous Friends (who lay both in one Chamber) that perhaps it were not amisse, if the next morning I went to Zenophon, and acquainted him with their being in his Government, which obligation of Trust would not only in some good degree recompence his past fidelitie, but invite his future, and thereby procure a powerfull Assistant, in case Surena's being alive, should thrust him

into desires of revenge, and of recovery of Partheniſſa; or if dead, ſhould infuſe reſembling ones into his Friends, and Partizans. Artabbanes though he knew exactly the merit of Zenophon's fidelitie, yet he conſented aſmuch to what I motion'd upon the ſcore that his Princeſſe would be thereby remov'd to a Place, and Attendance leſſe unfit for hir, as upon any other. This reſolve being aſſum'd, they endeavour'd to take their reſt, which the joy of Artabbanes, and the ſympathy Sillaces had in it, as much hinder'd, as the paine, or inconvenience of their wounds. The day at length appear'd, and I had no ſooner inform'd my generous Maſter, that the Princeſſe was awake, than he ſent me to the woman of the Houſe, to enquire of her Health, who return'd me word from Partheniſſa, that he might know hirs by his own. Artabbanes found a misfortune in ſo much kindneſſe, by finding himſelf in a feaver. This made me haſten to Zenophon, whoſe power, and care, I fear'd my Prince's ſickneſſe would need; As ſoon as I came to his Palace, I deſir'd one of his Domeſticks to bring me where he was, who being

ing my Guide, I past unexamin'd through his Guards, & came into a large Hall, where I found him inviron'd by a throng of his Officers; and though with Moneses I had left Media in a very green Age, yet I had still some impressions of Zenophon, which the seeing him reviv'd; 'twas with some difficultie I got near-enough to be observ'd by him, which when I perceiv'd I was, I lookt on him so fixedly, that perhaps it made him the more hastily dismisse the greater part of his Officers, who were no sooner gone, than presenting my self to him, I desir'd to know if he were at leasure to hear a Stranger, who had some things of moment to inform him of, and which it was not improbable, but he might be satisfy'd with; I know not whether he read something in my Face, which made him guesse or suspect who I was, or whether the Times which then began to be strangely confus'd, made him believe I came to give him some important advice; but whatever was the Cause, without any ballancing, he commanded me to follow him into a Cabbinet, which was contiguous to the Hall we then were in, whither being come, and the

Dore lockt, I askt him, if he had never seen any thing that resembl'd me: After having consider'd me narrowly, he reply'd he had, but that he could not suddenly recollect where it had bin. I thereupon told him my name, which he had scarcely heard, but I found my selfe in his Armes, as a reward of that discovery; and though by many testimonies of joy, he acquainted me with his, yet they were infinitely short of those demonstrations of that Passion, with which he celebrated the newes I told him of my Prince's being so neare him, and in a place under his Power; after I had convinc't his beliefe of that Truth by many protestations, he necessitated me to make him of it, lifting up his Eyes and his hands to Heaven, he cry'd out, Great Gods! you could not create my acknowledgements, in a way I should more willingly pay them, than by granting me the happinesse of serving any of Monese's blood; and if to this blessing you will add that, of permitting me to see his Sonne seated in the Throne of Media, I shall esteeme my selfe abundantly satisfy'd for your having deny'd me one.

'Twas

'Twas by many reſembling expreſſions that the generous Zenophon evinc't to me his Fidelity to Artabbanes Family was not at all impair'd, neither did his deſire to the Gods in my Princes favour reliſh any thing of an ill ſubject; ſince Tygranes, the then King of Media, either by Nature, or choyce, was ſo averſe to the faire Sex, that Artabbanes Paſſion for one of them, could hardly tranſcend his averſion for all. Zenophon having put a period to the evincements of his joy, and gratitude, conjur'd me preſſingly to conduct him, to him which had rais'd them; This I obey'd, having firſt deſir'd him it might be with privacy for that my Princes condition, if it did not alreadie need circumſpection, yet it might; it was therefore by water, that we went to his Lodging, which (as the Governours Palace) ſtood upon the River Corindas.' Tis as impoſſible, as needleſſe, to repeate all that paſt betweene them of Civility; it is ſufficient you know, Artabbanes receiv'd him with all the demonſtrations of ſatisfaction, and reſpect, a perſon ſo repleniſht with virtue, and Fidelity, could either deſire, or hope; and Zenophons joy

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at the reception was nothing inferior to the greatnesse of what created it. My Prince afterwards inform'd him of the quality of Silaces, whom he saluted, and complemented, with much humility; those ceremonyes finisht, Artabanes, who could not but admire at any mans possessing so high a Government as that of Arsacia, who was so declar'd a Partizan of his Fathers, as Zenophon, inform'd him of it. To which Zenophon reply'd, Though you are (Sir) ignorant of this present Government, yet you are not, that the past was so unequall, and Tyrannicall, that your generous Father quitted, not only his interest in it, but in the Kingdome; and not to be an Enemy to Tygranes Quiet, and his owne, volantarily confin'd himselfe in Parthia. It was long before we knew what created such ungrounded jealousies in our King, and so strange a way of suppressing them in his Vncle; but now the Mystery is as visible as his dissembling that has so long hinder'd it from being so. Merinzor, the first Prince of the Blood (after Moneses) aspir'd by Arte, and Sin, to acquire that prehemminence which Nature had deny'd him; and having

having by admirable insinuations made Tygranes asmuh his Subject by inclination, as he was his, by duty, he so successefully represented to him, the danger of having the next, and certaine Heire (by Tygranes aversion, or disability for Women) to be in the Government, or Kingdome, that at length the King by some usages which neither were consistent with Moneses Quality, or disposition, necessitated your generous Father to an Exilement; This was no sooner effected, on which Merinzors designes were founded, than he appeares publiquely the Favourite of his King, yet so artificially, that many believ'd his cõdition but from thence bore date; whereas some others, (though indeed but very few) concluded Moneses Banishment was an effect of his having bin so before. Merinzor (as Tygranes has since told me) assur'd him he might now Reigne, by no law but his will, since the discontented had no head to give their Body; & that Moneses by being kept out of Media, would be depriv'd of anticipating his Title to the Crowne of it; but to leave as little to Fortune, as the nature of humane things would admit,

admit, he humbly begg'd his *K*ings permiſſion to allow him in publique to be an earneſt Solicitor for your *F*athers returne, which (as he ſaid) would inſinuate him in all the Deſignes that would be laid to effect it, and conſequently enable him to prevent them. The deluded *T*ygranes condiſcended to this, by which conceſſion, Merinzor, not only caſt the odium of Moneſe's Baniſhment entirely on the King but alſo acquir'd to himſelf thoſe of your Fathers *F*riends, who had not wit-enough to discover, Merinzor was his Enemie; whereby many deſignes for his reſtauration became unfruitfull, and by the frequent Execution of the Conſpirators, ſoe weaken'd his Partie, that now there are ſcarcely enough left to act a deſigne, though not prevented by Intelligence. My *F*ortune, or my ſuſpitions kept me out of all thoſe unſucceſſefull Plots, and thereby I find my ſelfe (and ſome few *F*riends, who I had acquainted with, and made approve of my jealouſies) in a poſture able to ſerve our generous Prince; for not onely this Citie, but Ecbatan, Cyrapolis and Europus are in the power of thoſe, who are reſolv'd, they cannot

more

more juſtly employ theirs, than'againſt Merinzor, and for Moneſes, and Artabbanes. But Sir, (continu'd Zenophon) Tygranes being convinc't that your Father being remov'd, all cauſes of his Fears were ſo too, abandon'd himſelf ſo abſolutely to thoſe vices, which unlimited power is apteſt to inſpire, that partly thoſe exorbitant disorders, but more particularly his aſſuming to himſelfe Moneſes Baniſhment, from whence all our miſeries took their originall, has ſo alienated his Subjects Affections, that Merinzor by obliging all, by permitting Tygranes to oblige none, and by a ſeemingly ſoliciting your Fathers return, having gain'd thoſe Hearts he made his King loſe, began lately ſo Much to unvizard his deſignes, that I diſcover'd and diſcloſ'd them to Tygranes; but I had much difficultie to free my ſelf from being thought diſhoneſt, for endeavouring to evince Merinzor was ſo; which I had not effected, had not the Gods (concern'd in the diſcoverie of ſo black an ingratitude,) miraculouſly evidenc't it; For the Court being then at Ecbatan, there came a Packet to Merinzor out of Parthia; but the day before, he

was gone to a House of Pleasure not above 200 Furlongs off, where under a pretence of passing away his Time, he employ'd it in gaining of Partizans, and in establishing a fortune for himselfe, which should ruine his Kings. The beliefe I had, that in that Packet there was something of concernment, and the knowledge I had, that it lay not in the Power of inferences, but of demonstrations, to make Tygranes revoke that unlimited Authoritie he had so fatally trusted his Favourite with, made me Determine, to hazard my owne Ruine, to prevent my Kings: I say hazard my owne ruine; For if in that Packet I resolv'd to open, there had bin nothing which might have appologiz'd for my doing it, by my inclinations to your Family, and Merinzors Power, I could not have avoided resenting the most violent effects of it. In brief, I seiz'd upon those letters, and having by the admirable Art of a Secretarie of mine decypher'd them, I found they came from Surena, & discover'd palpably a strong, and dangerous conspiracie, which was partly to be acted by some Parthian Forces, that Prince had promis'd him. I believe

Sir,

Sir, (continu'd Zenophon) you are not ignorant of Surena's perſon, and Power with Arſaces, which hinders me from giving you a Character of either. Alas (reply'd Artabbanes) I am but too perfectly inſtructed in the latter, which has coſt me ſo many troubles, that 'tis no ſmall one, to remember them; But I will another time give you their relation, in the mean while, I ſhall beſeech you to continue yours. After (ſaid Zenophon) I had ſo ſucceſſefully diſcloſ'd what Tygranes, not I disbeliev'd, immediately I preſented him with what he found a misfortune then to know, but had found it a greater, to have longer ignor'd. Never did I ſee ſo ſudden and ſo ſtrange an alteration; that in his looks was much inferior to that in his Government, for he perceiv'd, 'twas not now by the Title, but the virtues of a King, that he muſt continue one; and that Merinzor had but for a time caſt away his fears, that afterwards he might eternally caſt him out of his Throne. Tygranes in Tears told me this truth and many an other, and by great favours convinc't me his Gratitude for my faithfulneſſe, & vigillance, was proporti-

onate to them; I told him 'twas not enough to discover Merinzors infidelity, but he must prevent it; that nothing was more conducive to that end, than without any respite to place men of high fidelity, and no lesse resolution in the principall Townes, which would not only hinder Merinzors possessing them, but deterre his *Partizans* from a conjunction with him, by so prejudicial, and pregnant an evincement, that his Conspiracy was disclos'd, and partly prevented; that if yet the despaire of Merinzors *Faction* flung them first into Armes, yet the possession of the Townes, would so protract the time, that before all of them were lost, He might raise an Army, not only to recover them againe, but to punish those that necessitated him to doe it. That one of the best advantages in a Civill War, was to secure the Cities, they being not only Sanctuaries for small Numbers against great, but the Banks, and Magazeens of a Kingdome, and without which the Country cannot subsist; for 'tis those which take off the fruits of the Earth, & returne to the Country those of Industry and Arte; that

possessing

poſſeſſing them, he would gaine the ableſt men, which cõmonly make their reſidence there, or at leaſt hinder the Enemy from that advantage, which is one of the higheſt in a Domeſtick War. I told him many things of this quality which he approv'd, and becauſe by what I had done, he was alſo confident of my Fidelity, he inſtantly gave me Commiſſions to place ſuch Governours in the fower chiefe Cities, for whoſe Honeſty I would anſwer. In Ecbatan (which you know is the Metropolis of this Kingdome) I plac't Patafernes, Symanders Vncle; Arſacia I elected for my ſelfe; and for the other Two, Men of whoſe inclinations I am ſatisfy'd, and for whoſe abilities I will more anſwer for, than my owne. This I did with that celerity which accompanyes thoſe actions, we embrace with duty, and inclination. Ecbatan by reaſon of the Kings preſence, and Guards, we ſecur'd without delay, or hazard, and thruſt out Merinzors Governour, and Creatures, the other Three with ſome little difficulty we effected; but the firſt thing of all that we attempted, was the ſeizing on Merinzors Perſon, whoſe intelligence of my taking

taking his Packet, came immediatly to his knowledge, and so he Scap't me; but so narrowly, that had he bin as much hurt, as fear'd, he had not now bin in so promising a condition. I believe (continv'd Zenophon) you may think it strange that in the heate of Tygranes apprehensions, and of his hatred to his late Favourite, I did not embrace soe obligeing a conjuncture for soliciting your Fathers returne; I doe confesse, I was a thousand times upon the point of motioning it, but that which suspended my doeing so, was, least it might ceeate some jealousies of me, and in them, recall the power he had conferr'd on me, which I intended to make use of, to place Partizans of your Family in the most important Governments; which once being effected, would probably render my solicitation lesse unsucceesfull by rendring it more dangerous to deny, than to graunt my request. This reasoning of mine, the event but too evidently evinc't was not groundlesse; for after I had secur'd the chiefe Cities with Governors, declar'd Servants to Moneses, which I palliated to Tygranes, by assureing him I knew none

but

but your Fathers Friends thatwere Enemies to Merinzor; I implor'd of him by many reaſons, and reitterated Prayers to invite Moneſes to returne, from whoſe Courage, & Iudgement, he would doubtleſſe derive thoſe good Services, which by Merinzors infidility he needed, and which thereby he had bin ſo long hinder'd from receiving: I added to this, that had Merinzors infuſions of your Fathers deſignes of aſpireing to the Crowne bin as true, as they were falſe; yet by his loſſe of Artabbanes (for alas (Sir) we then were confident of that misfortune, by your being ſo long conceal'd to the world) there was no danger of any attempts, ſince by the courſe of Nature, Moneſes was much nearer his Grave than he, and by the courſe of the Median Lawes, the Princeſſe Lyndadory was excluded from the Crowne. But though Tygranes had caſt off his affection for Merinzor, yet he ſtill retain'd thoſe impreſſions he had planted in him, whenhe poſſeſt it; & conſequently either as a Complement to our fidelities upon his owne ſcore, or as an unremovable maxime he had eſtabliſht not to admit of your Fathers return,

return, (for if guiltie, he muſt thereby inveſt him with too-ample a power to act his deſignes, and if innocent to act his revenge) he not only poſſitively deny'd me my requeſt; but enjoyn'd me never to revive it, and in expreſſions ſo violent, that inſtead of making him *Moneſes* friend, I once apprehended he was no Longer *Mine*. Iudge Sir, (ſaid Zenophon) if to motives of juſtice, having added that of his intereſt, and fear, I could not prevaile, how much more certain I had bin of that misfortune, if I had attempted my requeſt upon the ſcore only of the former; I was neceſſitated notwithſtanding ſo ſenſible a repulſe, to make no publique demonſtration of it, yet I was often determining to betray my King into his advantage, by ſending for your Father; but the apprehenſion I then had, that ſuch a proceeding before the effect was evidenc't for which I acted it, might caſt Tygranes into an eternall ruine, by occaſioning him to caſt himſelf into *Merinzors* power, hinder'd me from it; which latter was but too-probable; for what *Merinzor* did performe, he was reſolv'd *Moneſes* would, had he but the *Force*; and

of

of two Enemies, 'twas a rational faith, he would elect him whom he had ſo recently honor'd with his favour, than him, who had never had any ſhare in it. 'Twas upon many as pregnant reaſons as theſe, that I determin'd to expect the leaſure of the Gods, for the Reſtoration of your Family, and in the mean time to act what I could for the ruin of the greateſt Enemie of it, which I eſteem'd much conducive to that end. In purſuance whereof, the King having honor'd me with the title of his Lieutenant-Generall, reſerving to himſelf the ſuperioritie over all, (as a King that deſires and merits victorie, determining to Court her in Perſon) I came by his Command to this Citie, to raiſe ſuch forces as voluntarily would fight under the Royal Enſignes; Merinzor too, having alreadie ſo farre advanc't his preparations, as to have marching out of the Northerne parts of this kingdome, a Bodie of 30000 Men, which dayly increaſes, and with which he hopes to ſettle, what my ſucceſſefull doubts, has ſo much ſhaken and indanger'd.

Zenophon had no ſooner done ſpeaking, than Artabbanes by many freſh Civilities

congratulated his Command, and his deſerving of it, and by particular expreſſions made him many ſignall retributions, for the care he had of Moneſes, and his Family. My Prince then let Zenophon know that Surena was in Media, and near Arſacia, how miraculouſly he had avoided the generous Sillaces ſword, and at laſt that the faire Partheniſſa, the Authoreſs of his ſufferings, and deſires, was in the ſame Houſe with him. Zenophon was much amaz'd at the intelligence of Surena's being in Media, but he was much more ſatisfy'd to learn his Prince's Miſtreſſe was in a place, where he might ſerve hir, and where he might ſee a Perfection, which he concluded could not be but tranſcendent, by making ſo generous a Captive; he went therefore, with Artabbanes's, and hir permiſſion to the Chamber of that excellent Beautie, which he ſawe with admirations, and confeſſions, that my Prince's deſires, and ſufferings, could not eqnall in degrees, that perfection which had occaſion'd them. After Zenophon by a ſilent wonder had complemented hir Beautie, by many preſſing, and humble implorings, he

invited

invited hir to his Palace, which he ſaid would be leſſe unworthy of hir, than the Chamber ſhe was in. Partheniſſa acknowledg'd this Civilitie in expreſſions which acquainted him with hirs, and after the Chyrurgions had aſſur'd hir, that the Two Princes might, without any danger, be remov'd by Boate to Zenophon's, ſhe condiſcended to accompany them thither, where they arriv'd undiscover'd, which my Prince was much intent upon, leſt his accidentall coming into Media, might, by the conjuncture of Affaires, reliſh more of Deſigne, than Chance, and conſequently prejudice Zenophon, who by the Laws of Hoſpitalitie, and Gratitude, he was confin'd to oblige. As ſoon as the Princeſſe was retir'd to hir Apartment, Zenophon preſented hir with the faire Emilia, his Daughter, and only Childe, who he begg'd hir to accept, 'till ſhe could recover one that was more capable to ſerve hir; or if ſhe eſteem'd none could be ſo, then he conjur'd hir to accept of hir for ever. Partheniſſa was exceedingly ſatisfy'd with ſo obliging a Preſent, and though Emilia at firſt ſight abſolutely gave hir ſelf up to the

Princeſſe, yet ſhe could not more do ſo to Partheniſſa, than I did the like to hir. I cannot Sir, (continu'd Symander) but acknowledge a Truth, which if you ſawe the cauſe of, you would perhaps upon hir accompt excuſe this digreſſion, whoſe Character I would give you, did I not know, that in ſuch attempts, either the Lover thinks he ſpeakes too-little, or is thought to ſpeak too-much. There is no doubt, had not Artavaſdes bin too-deeply concern'd in the hearing of his Friends Loves, and in the infelicities of his owne, to act any thing of mirth, or ſuſpention, he had at Symanders coſt, given himſelf no ſmall divertiſement; for that faithfull ſervant, had bin ſo little one to Love, and ſo contemn'd the two Princes aſſurances, that it was a Fate as certaine, as Death, that now this acknowledgement had furniſht his generous Hearer with an ample Theame for Raillery, had not thoſe former conſiderations ſilenc't all thoughts of that quality. Symander in expectation of this little war, had continu'd a while ſilent, but at length, perceiving, & troubl'd at the cauſe that he miſt it, thus proſecuted his narration.

Zenophon

Zenophon Leaving Partheniſſa in hir Appartment, went to ſee the Two Princes's in theirs, who, though his Pallace was capacious enough to affoard them diſtinct ones, had determin'd their Lodgings, as their Friendſhips, ſhould admit of noe diviſion. The reſidue of that day, and the Night, was dedicated to Reſt; But Artabbanes tooke ſo little, that the next morning his Princeſſe being inform'd of it, came to viſit him, and perceiving by his indiſpoſition, and the loſſe of ſo much blood, that he was very pale ſhe became ſo too, & what misfortune had created in Artabbanes, Sympathy did in his Miſtris, who by the eloquence of hir words aſwell as lookes, acquainted him with hir ſufferings, which ſhe ſaid, receiv'd no ſmall acceſſion, that his proceeded from the ſervice he had done hir. If (Madam, ſaid my Prince) my preſent condition ought to produce any operations in you, they ſhould be of a contrary quality to thoſe you aſcribe them to, for my Crime upon its own ſcore abundantly merited a higher puniſhment, than theſe unconſiderable wounds; I have therefore much more cauſe

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to rejoyce than repine, that what I ſhould have ſuffer'd as an expiatory Pennance for my Sin, I doe, for the duty of ſerving you, your goodneſſe having render'd my puniſhment needleſſe, 'twas juſt my ſervices ſhould impoſe on me, what your Mercy declin'd the doeing; and that a part of that blood ſhould be ſhedd for your ſafety, which was all preſerv'd by your forgiveneſſe; but Madam, (continu'd Artabbanes) may I not again ſtand in need of it when I have taken the confidéce humbly to beg the knowledge of your Adventures 'till my wounds permit me to acquaint you with mine? This entertainment will be the beſt Charme againſt their Paine, for whilſt I can heare, & ſee the faire Partheniſſa, my other Sences will reſigne their functions to thoſe. If (ſhe reply'd) the relation of my Story can produce ſo ambition'd an effect, I ſhall finde in it an ample recompence for all my ſufferings; which the ſooner to receive I will obey you.

The Sequell of Partheniſsa's Hiſtory.

AFter (ſaid Partheniſſa) that the generous Sillaces by an attempt to ſilence our feares for you, had raiſ'd them for himſelfe by ingageing in ſo dangerous, & unpromiſing a journey, wherein he evinc't the vaſtneſſe of his Friendſhip; for there is hardly any of ſo perfect a quality, as to undertake that upon certainties, which his did but in hopes, I continu'd for a while free from all troubles, but thoſe which both your abſences created, and thoſe I ſympathiz'd in, of your excellent Siſters, and the faire Zephalinda's; for Surena, nor Arſaces on his ſcore, did not renew their perſecution; I admir'd at it, aſmuch as I was ſatisfy'd with it; for though Surena's words aſſur'd me not of his Paſſion, yet his languiſhings did, and in all his viſits he ſo preſſingly implor'd my pardon, that I found he was but too-much concern'd in the obtaining it; which having granted to his condition, and not to him, that being alter'd, I had alſo alter'd my conceſſiō; this I did as a neceſſary juſtice, though he

he gave it a contrary Name; For those prayers which by that proceeding he employ'd for obtaining of my Pardon, he would otherwise (as I apprehended) have imploy'd for obtaining my affection; & the obstacle of his Crime being remov'd, it would have left Arsaces none, whereby he might have continu'd his solicitations for his *Favourite*. It was above six *Moons* that I remain'd in this condition, which, though but too full of infelicity by your absences, and Surena's presence, yet it seemes the Gods thought it not full-enough, for by the folly of his Passion, he was finally reduc't to as dangerous a condition, as your Sword had done: 'Twas then that Orodes passing over all considerations, but those of his Favourite, came to visit me and not only implor'd my Pardon, but my Love for him. I represented to him, that one which could stand in need of the former, could hardly merit the latter; that he was a Person whose Treachery render'd him as unfit for his Friendship, as *Mine*; and that his actions rather call'd upon his Justice, than protection. Madam (said Orodes) that infidelity you reproach him with, is that

which

which you ſhould eſteem him for; the leaſt production of a common Paſſion, is to endeavour the having it rewarded by ſufferings, and by ſubmiſſions; but one that could not but prove extraordinarie, by the Beauties being ſo that inſpir'd it, you cannot admire at an effect, reſembling it's cauſe; and that your perfections are not common, is not a greater Truth, than that a Cryme in Surena is the like. Your Artabbanes himſelf I believe durſt not have done ſo much; he loves his Reputation, more than Partheniſſa; and who dares doe moſt for hir, merits moſt from hir. I know (Sir, I reply'd) that the generous Artabbanes is more a friend to Virtue, than to Love, and I am confident he knows I am ſo too; 'tis therefore only on that accompt I believe he durſt not have done what Surena did; neither is it any glory, that he tranſcends Artabbanes in nothing but vice; which is a preheminence he will as certainly reſigne him, as ſurpaſs him in all actions of an oppoſite qualitie; but (Sir) I hope you cannot ſeriouſly expect my affection, for a Perſon, who pretends no title to it, but by one which renders him unworthy of it. I

am (said Orodes) so serious in my request, that to denie it me, will cast me into as bad a condition, as his whose preservation I solicite; my Fate & Surena's being unseparable. But Arsaces finding I was as constant in my resolves, as his Favourite in his fruitless passion, at length converted those prayers for my Affection, into some, for giving him a visit; and that at least I would preserve his life, if I would not render it happie. The Kings importunities forc't that from me which his reasons could not, and taking me with him in his Chariot, he brought me to Surena's Palace; I found the Master of it in a condition, that convinc't me; Pitie is none of the wayes to Love, for had it bin, Surena could have bin no longer deny'd mine. You know (continued Partheniſſa) that his good meen yields to none but to Two which are in this Chamber, and yet I found it as remarkable for the change, as it had bin for the perfection. As soon as Arsaces had acquainted him I was come to give him a visit, he raisd himself faintly up, & with a languishing voice told me, I know not Madam, with what designe 'tis you do me this honor; is it either

either to see the effects of your Power; or to increase them? 'Tis (I reply'd) purely from my Kings Commands, that you derive this visit, and if mine have any influence over you, do not I beseech you, by continuing soe ill, necessitate him to command from me another. Alas Madam (said Surena) why doe you then by your sight give me so great a disinvitation to obey you? who can see your Beautie, and resolve to banish himself eternally from it? your Eyes destroy what your Crueltie makes me elect, and had I not had the felicitie of beholding you now, my sufferings in few dayes had made me obey a Command, which your words has not now more plainly told me, than your usage has; Yes Madam, (he continu'd) since 'tis impossible to decline my Flame, but with my Life, I am taking that fatall, and only way of extinguishing it; and I hope in a short time so to change my condition, that it shall render me as worthy your Pitie, as my ill Fate has render'd me unworthy your esteem. That Death (I reply'd) which you seem to imply, is not to obey, but injure me; and I had rather indure your importunities, than

avoyd them at that rate; 'tis your change, not your ruine I desire. Ah Madam (Surena answer'd) the impossibility that any Beautie can transcend yours is not greater, than whilst I live, that I can decline adoring it; & if I vow'd your Eyes could act all things I excepted th' impossibilitie of their quēching fires which they themselves inspir'd: that miracle is deny'd them by a power, which renders that deficiencie a greater: so that if you command me to live, you consequently command my Passion to live with me, and you must resolve to suffer the effects of the latter, if you enjoyn the continuance of the former: I tell you (Madam) ingennonsly what you must permit, if you permit me to live, that either I may put a period to my Torments, by putting a period to my Life, or not be deluded into fresh Miseries, by fresh Expectations, which will vanish as soon as my sickness does, and add to the Miseries of losing my Cure, that of losing my hopes. So resolute a demaund (continu'd Partheniſſa) was so farre from inducing me to say more in his favour, that it made me repent I had said so much, which I had no sooner told

told him, than Arſaces demonſtrated as great a deſpaire, as what I had ſaid, did involve Surena in; and truely the King by ſuch moving conjurations, & humblings, ſo farre tranſported me beyond my reſolution, that the concluſion of our viſit was, a promiſe I made Surena of a Pardon for all was Paſt. But leſt this might invite him to actions that might neede it againe, to qualify my forgiveneſs, I told him he deriv'd it only from Arſaces commands, & his owne condition. He preſt me extreamly before I left him, to ſay he deriv'd it immediatly from me, but that I was ſo farre from telling him, that it made me profeſs, if he was not ſatisfy'd with what I had already ſpoke, I ſhould rather reeall my conceſſion, than any way increaſe it. Surena (as he ſaid) by this viſit, was in few dayes able to pay me one, which he did, and entertain'd me with retributions, not deſires. To invite him to a perſeveranse therein, I uſ'd him with much more Civility, & Freedome, than either his offence, or my reſentment for it had made me formerly practice, Neither was I out of hope, but that recieving favours, when he

deſir'd

desir'd none, and none when he desir'd any, his reason might invite him then, to what it should have done before. I must acknowledge I could hardly have bin civill to him, upon any other score, and I had had no small difficulty to perswaded my modesty to listen to such constant expressions of Gratitude with satisfaction, but that I found it less troublesome to heare his thankes than his requeſt; and to have him acknowledge obligations, than desire them; For a Quarter of a Yeare Surena gave me no other troubles, but those of his Visits, But then he began to add to them, those of his accustom'd importunities; I know not whether he believ'd what I had elected to suppress his addresses, was to invite them, or whether those Civilities I did him, to reward his silence, was to solicite the breaking it; but I know, if these were his Thoughts, as soone as he reveal'd, he had no reason any longer to retaine them; for I gave him so resolute a reprehension, that He found I had bin kind, but to keepe him from imploreing my being so; and that he could not elect a more certaine way to be deny'd my affection, than to solicite

ſolicite it; I cannot certainly acquaint you whether this uſage, or ſome internall infirmity which then began to manifeſt it ſelf, was the cauſe of his Sickneſs, but I can, that ſuddenly after, he fell into a very dangerous one, & though it were equally ſo to his former, & that Arſaces did me the honor conſtantly to viſit me, yet he never deſir'd I ſhould doe ſo to Surena; But the ſatisfaction I receiv'd thereat, I ſoone obſerv'd, was too-dearly purchaſ'd; For in ſome Fower or Five ſucceſſive viſits, I obſerv'd Orodes had ſoe inceſſantly his Eyes fixt on mine, & utter'd ſuch disorder'd, and disjonted diſcourſes, that I began to doubt, what his next ſeeing me made me but to-certaine of: for after all the Court which waited on him, were retir'd into a Gallery contiguous to my Chamber; Arſaces ſpoake theſe words, with aſmuch Trouble as I heard them. Madam Though you ſhould infinitly admire, that I doe not now ſolicite you for my dying Friend, yet I doe as much, that I have done it ſo long, & that I ſhould employ thoſe prayers for another, which your Beautie makes me ſtand in need of for my ſelfe: I beleive faire Partheniſſa

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(he continu'd) you cannot ſo much admire at my making now this declaration, as that I did it not ſooner, and the greateſt wonder next your Beautie, is, that I have ſo long declin'd adoreing it: whilſt my Love was kindling, my Friendſhip tranſcended it, but now it burnes, it has conſum'd my Friendſhip, & I feare will conſume me, unleſs you afford me as much Love, as you inſpire. This aſſurance cannot be more confident, than true, and I eſteem'd I had no higher motive to induce you to ſave your *King*, than to acqaint you that you have the power to doe it. I believe (ſaid Partheniſſa, to hir generous Auditors) by your own ſurprize, it will not be very difficult to perſwad you of Mine, but as ſoone as the firſt diſorders of it were a little mitigated, I turn'd my Eyes towards the King, and found, thoſe I had ſo lately ſuppreſt could not tranſcend thoſe which were viſible in him; & though this gave me too-palpable an aſſurance of a Truth, which none could have bin more ambitious to have diſcover'd, than I was troubl'd to have done it, yet I told him: This diſcourſe (Sir) which you have made me of your Love, is doubtleſs

doubtleſs to revenge my not conferring mine, on Surena, and I conſider this Raillery with Ioy, as my belief, that 'tis the only penãce you will impoſe, on the neceſſity of my disobedience. I rather hope (Arſaces reply'd) that you reſteeming that a Raillerie, which I now tell you in ſo much earneſt, is the only penance you will preſcribe me, for not having told you of it ſooner: or if you eſteem me ſo unworthy the honor of your Converſation, as in it to ſpeake any thing unſerious, your Beautie might more juſtly have made you aſſume that thought, when I did implore your beſtowing it on another, than when I doe, your conferring it on me: But Madam, if you believe it as great an injurie to your modeſtie to acknowledge your conqueſt, as I know 'tis to your Eyes to decline it, yet your reaſon cannot be but convinc't of your victorie, when I aſſure you I have ſeen Surena languiſh with as little reluctancie, as you have done it; when even his ſilence pleaded for him, as much as his condition: for I ſuſpected he kept it, out of a knowledge that I was become his Ryvall, which he has diſcover'd either from my not perſevering his

Interceſſor, or my ſighes, which are now more inflam'd than thoſe of grief uſed to be, has told him, what I had not the confidence to doe. This proceeding faire Partheniſſa, affoards you no lowe, nor perhaps unpleaſing Character of my Paſſion, for at the ſame inſtant that I but implore your affection, I act your revenge, which gives me a hope that what obliges you, cannot be deteſted by you. Theſe words he animated with ſo paſſionate a tone, and action, that even thoſe did alſo ſpeak: but as I was about to doe ſo, I was reliev'd by the faire Zephalinda, in whoſe preſence Arſaces entertain'd me a while in words of a contrary quality, either that he would conceal his Paſſion from all, or particularly from Surena's ſiſter; and though the King continu'd a while in my Chamber, yet by the disorders and disjoyntedneſs of his diſcourſe, I found how much he was troubl'd, that Zephalinda had interrupted him. But he could not be more offended thereat, than I was ſatisfy'd; for thereby I procur'd ſome time towards the forming my anſwers, and the courſe I was to follow in this new emergencie; for I was

hopefull

hopefull to improve his passion to a better end, than that for which he had assum'd it; and make it the means of bringing Artabbanes to Partheniſſa, which was design'd to deprive him of hir. As-soon as Orodes was retir'd, Zephalinda told me, At last Madam, I believe I shall make my visits prove what hitherto I fear they did not, a satisfaction to you, proportionate to that I receive in paying you them; for but even now I have had the effect of my incessant solicitations; Surena has given that to my Prayers, which he should long since have done to Reason, and Virtue: Yes (Madam) he has protested to me by what he ador'd, as much as now he does but admire, that if he has any Passion for you, it is only to serve you, and that he will employ as much care, and Art, for your union with Artabbanes, as he has done to hinder it; and I am come to implore you from him, to give him a visit, that he may give you those demonstrations of his conversion, which may induce you as much to believe the realitie of it, as alreadie I do. I know not (said Partheniſſa, prosecuting hir discourse) whether it be the nature of all my

ſex, to fear the Truth of what they moſt deſire, but I am certain 'tis mine, and conſequently I had many pregnant jealouſies, that Surena but ſeemingly yeelded that to his King, which he really preſerv'd for me; and that what he now did, was an action of Policie, and not Converſion: I was often about to tell Zephalinda my douts, but leſt they might be an offenc (which mine owne defects, and Arſaces letting me know Surena did not know his Paſſion, made me the apter to fancie) I did at laſt, (more convinc't by Zephalinda's Prayers, than Reaſons) condiſcend to viſit hir Brother, into whoſe Chamber I was no ſooner come (for yet his indiſpoſition made him keep it) then ſtaying his Siſter, and ſending all the reſt out of it, he told me, with a confidēce which I believ'd nothing but Truth could put on, at leaſt that a Lover could not, ſpeaking to his Miſtris. That I have had a paſſion Madam for you is not ſo ſtrange, as that I now diveſt my ſelf of it, and thoſe hopes which deſpaire ſhould have made me lay downe, I doe now, by way of reparation for their having bin ſo offenſive, & dangerous; I am alſo ſo ſenſible

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of having interrupted a Paſſion, which I now as much eſteeme, as I have envy'd, that I finde as tranſcendent a ſatisfaction in having miſt my deſires, as I ſhould in having obtain'd them; Thoſe Prayers therefore which I hitherto employ'd for your affection, I doe now Madam for your Pardon, which is now as neceſſarie to my Life, as that was to my felicity; which you may eſtabliſh without being obnoxious to your owne; formerly you were to be vicious to make me happy, now you are but to be virtuous to doe it; your incõſtãcy then could only be my cure, but 'tis your *Mercy* now that only can be ſo, which to obtaine, I proteſt by all the Gods, & by thoſe which are more particularly concern'd in the puniſhmẽt of perjury, I will never have any deſires for you, but to ſee you by an Hymeneall union in his embraces, who now, & never but 'till now, I eſteem'd the leaſt unworthy of you. What need I tell you more (ſaid Partheniſſa) than that Surena by ſuch expreſſions, and vowes, gave a begining to that Faith, which in progreſs of time he ſo well improv'd, and ſettl'd, that his change was as abſolutely my belief, as deſire. But what

what the Favourite declin'd, the King aſ-ſum'd, & I read the greatneſs of his Love, by the conqueſt it had obtain'd over his Friendſhip; he gave me beſides ſome ſignall evincements of it every day, though I was not a little diligent to retrench all opportu-nities, that by my actions, I might acquaint him with my intentions, which I eſteem'd the civill'ſt, and certain'ſt way of denyall. I muſt acknowledge I was both ſatisfy'd, and troubl'd at a Paſſion ſo repleniſht with re-ſpect, as that of Orodes was, for though on the one ſide, it ſecur'd me from thoſe violen-ces, his power, and flame might inſpire him with; yet on the other, it hinder'd me from ſuppreſſing his hopes, and importunities. Surena being recover'd of the indiſpoſition both of his Body, and Minde, gave me as many viſits under the notion of a Friend, as he had done under that of a Lover, and as a freſh evincement he was no more the latter, he told me one day, Certainly Madam the Gods are not a little concern'd in the hav-ing me lay downe my Paſſion, by ordaining two things for the reward of that perfor-mance, which I moſt ambition'd, that of ob-

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lieging you, and Orodes; who has this morning diſcloſ'd to me a Flame, I ſhould have wonder'd at, had he not told me, 'twas you that inſpir'd it: By the experimentall knowledge I have had of your Beautie, I was not ſo much ſurpriz'd at that declaration, as when after he had made it, that he could conjure me to pardon his being my Rivall, and that I would no longer continue his: I eſteem'd it ſtrange, that he which reſented the influence of your Eyes, could thinke me capable of not doing the like, and that I ſhould decline the power of a God, to obey that of a King; I told him this but to indeare an obligation I had prophetically conferr'd on him; but after I had caſt him into Troubles, great enough to let him know thoſe my obedience would involve me in, I aſſur'd him of it. Truly Madam, he contracted a joy ſo great at the promiſe I would lay downe my paſſion, that I believe nothing can tranſcend it, but an aſſurance that you will accept, and reward his. I did this readily, that he might conclude 'twas with willingneſs, that thereby convincing him I was no longer his Ryvall, I might become his Confident,

Confidét, & pay you those duties, which one more concern'd in his Interests, than yours, would never doe; I had also this farther hope, that since out of a respect to him, I could divest my self of my Flame, it might upon the generous Artabbanes's return, take from Arsaces all excuses of continuing his; since it manifested there was actually a Power in your Adorers, to decline that Title; which without this President, he might have alleadg'd was an impossibilitie. I knew not (continu'd Partheniſſa) whether I had cause to resent this as an obligation, for though as Surena stated it, there might be some possibilitie of its success, yet that was so small, as it left it disputable whether there were any, or no; for examples of virtue, are more often commended, than practic'd by those, who promise themselves a higher satisfaction in declining their imitation; especially too, when the quality of the Person, preserves him from suffering, but in Mens opinions; whereas if Surena had still pretended an Affection for me, it might have deny'd Arsaces a liberty, which this Concession absolutely afforded him; & thereby,

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by having two Lovers, have bin preſerved from having one; I let Surena know this was my opinion, but he was ſo wedded to his, that he aſſur'd me, were he to act his part again, and had only heard thoſe reaſons, and not that they were Mine, he had follow'd his own, which nothing could induce him to believe, were the worſt, but my thinking then ſo. At length Arſaces, convinc't that Surena was not his Ryvall, made him really his Confident, who ſo artificially acted his Part, that he ſatisfy'd us both; and to make his King the leſs ſolicit me, he gave him ſtill better anſwers from me, than ever were given him by me: I yeelded to this Proceeding by Surena's advice, who pretending the greateſt knowledge in Orodes's humour, made me eſteeme him the fitteſt to mannage it: But whilſt the Court of Parthia was in this Condition, the Kingdome was engag'd in a bloodie Warr; For the Tabienians knowing their Crymes merited no Mercy, neither expected, nor implor'd the Kings; your unfortunate difference with Surena, having render'd you uncapable to command the Army, and the generous Sillaces having

declin'd that honor, to restore us your Company, it was conferr'd on Ariobarzanes, who you know is a Prince merits that Title, and wanted succes in nothing, but in what you had too-much; I cannot tell whether his desire to serve his King, or his hopes to become more fortunate in the faire Zephalinda by the Oratories of Honor, than he had bin thitherto by those of Love, made him accept that Command; but I can, that he did; & though by the situation of the Countrey, and the despaire of those that inhabited it, the Warre was protracted; yet Ariobarzanes had that consolation, that he never lost an opportunitie to fight, and never did fight, but he was victorious; In the end his Courage, and Conduct made him entirely so over the Tabienians; but at his return from that victorie, he found thereby he had nothing facilitated another, which he a Thousand times more ambition'd; for Zephalinda was as uncapable of having a Passion for any, as all that saw hir, were, of declining one for hir. This internall warre concluded; by the advance of Pompey an exterior one began; Orodes, and the Prince Pacorus with

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a vaſt Army marcht to the confines of Armenia, & the Prince Phraates with another into Syria, to infeſt the Roman Colonies, hoping that by making two Warres abroad, they ſhould hinder any to be made at home. I purpoſely omit telling you what Complements Arſaces made me at his departure, & how he proteſted, if he ambition'd Lawrels, 'twas only to lay them at my feet. But by the as-ſtrange, as ſudden Peace Pompey made with the Armenians, he found himſelf neceſſitated to advance with a part of his Army into Syria to fortifie that of Phraates, which abundantly needed it, by the Roman Generall's being more concern'd to relieve his Friends, than to make any new acquſitions. Pompey by this re-inforcement of his Enemies, or call'd home by the dawning confuſions in Italy, ſettl'd his Affairs by Treaty with Orodes, and ſo returned to Rome, and the King to Nineveh, where he was receiv'd in Triumph, his Flatterers alleadging he had obtain'd a victorie, by not loſing one to the Romans; Pacorus had not ſo much as this pretence to a tryumphant reception, for he was entirely defeated by

the generous Artavaſdes, who uſ'd his ſucceſs ſo handſomly, that his very Enemies did hardly envie, or deplore it. Surena who amongſt many others enjoy'd the benefit of his Civilitie, aſſur'd me it had produc't the effect, I mention'd. The winter of this year, the Court conſtantly reſided at Nineveh, & Arſaces as conſtantly perſecuted me, though I muſt acknowledge I avoyded many importunate Dayes, by Surena's Art, and Friendſhip. About this time there happen'd an Accident, which though for a while it exempted me from Arſaces Addreſſes, yet ſoon after it afforded him a Libertie to continue them with more aſſiduitie, and hope: 'Twas the Death of his Queen, who having bin in ſome danger whilſt ſhe was in labor of Phraates, had ſolemnly proteſted, if Iuno Lucinia (who you know we acknowledge Guardian of the Geniall Bed) would free hir from it, ſhe would wholly ſequeſter hir ſelf from the World, and dedicate hir the reſidue of hir Life. This the Goddeſs granted, and this the Queen perform'd; and though the accompliſhment of this vow was eſteem'd a great misfortune, yet it was a greater, that

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ſhe had not made it after the generous Pacorus Birth. The ſolemnitie of the funerall being celebrated for one Queen, Orodes attempted to make another, by offering me that Title, in ſuch earneſt & preſſing words, that I was aſmuch troubl'd to finde they were reall, as another would have bin, to have doubted it. Whilſt the Queene was living, I had ſome pretence to decline his Addreſſes, and to render that an impoſſibily from his condition, which really was one from mine; Though he often told me; That his Queene by having voluntarily baniſht hirſelf from his Bedd, had given him provocation enough to make another aſſume hir place; That though it were a cuſtome amongſt the Kings of Parthia to have but one wife, yet it was not a lawe; which though it had bin, yet the cauſe of his infringing it, would ſufficiently appologize for it, and that my Beauty would render the preſerving that practice, a ſtranger thing, than the violating of it. To this I anſwer'd, That it was a pregnant evincement Bygamy was extreame odious, ſince cuſtome without law, had ſo long hinder'd our Kings from it; That there was

a ſufficient determent in the very act, ſince no penalty was impoſ'd on the comitting it; That I ſhould recieve more horror from being the cauſe of violating ſo ſacred, and ancient a Practice, than advantage by the honor I might thereby derive; & that, that cuſtome of our Kings having but one wife, was ſo ingrafted in the Hearts of all the Parthians, that I ſhould not only be conſider'd by them, but by my ſelfe, as his Concubine, rather than his Queene; 'Twas with many reſembling reaſons and as many preſſing conjurations that during the Life of the Queene, I preſerv'd my ſelfe from that Title; But now the Gods having remov'd that pretence, they left me without any, eſpecially ſince I had alwayes repreſented hir, as the greateſt, & indeed as the only obſtacle; which I had done, not only by Surena's Councell, but by that of my Reaſon; for I found none ſo civily unanſwerable, nor ſo long like to continue ſo, as that. Orodes when he made me the offer of a Crowne, told me with it, that doubtleſs the juſt Gods who knew the vaſtneſs and cleerneſs of his Flame, had purpoſely remov'd all obſtructions that might hinder

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my rewarding it. This unexpected accident, and his so resolute, and pressing demands, cast me into great perplexities, which I may justly terme so, though they were created not from what I was to resolve, but what to answer. At length, least he might esteem my silence a Concession, I told him; By giving me (Sir) too great an opinion of your Passion, you may create in me a proportionate fear to recieve it; For if as soone as your Queene is in hir Grave, you take another into hir Bedd, you will demonstrate how little esteeme you make of a Wife, and consequently make me apprehend being yours; besides (Sir) so precipitate a proceeding, may induce the World to believe 'twas not the Gods, but the King that remov'd his obstructions; I shall therefore (Sir) conjure you, as you esteeme my satisfaction, or your Kingdomes, protract your desires, 'till I may without prejudice recieve them. Arsaces told me I might rather create inferences of the greatness of his Flame, than Feares of its reallity, by his passing over all considerations which came in competition with it; but since I did not decline, but suspend the recompence

recompence of it, he would to satisfy my nice scruples, indure some dayes of Torment, for so (he said) he must terme all those, which he was to spend in the condition he then was in. He withdrew himself not long after, and gave me leasure to reflect on the cruelty of my condition, for if on the one side I resolutly acknowledg'd my affection, & unalterable resolution for Artabbanes, I should thereby not only eternally confirme his Banishment, & consequently not only deprive my self of Him, but also of that deliverance, which I soly & absolutly expected from him, and so exasperate Orodes, that it would inevitably (as Surena protested to me, who was perfectly verst in his Nature) make him run to those extreames, which he could not thinke on without Horror; and to prevent which, I had treated him with so little cause of disgust; and on the other side, if I disclos'd not my affection for you, I left my self by the Queenes unfortunate Death, not many dayes of disguisement, which would no sooner be effluxt, than I must absolutely fall into one of those extreames, I so justly apprehended, and thitherto I had so artificially, and painfully

painfully avoyded. These sad reflexions, though they were much extenuated by the constant visits, and consolations of Lyndadory, and Zephalinda, yet at length they had so efficatious an operation on me, that by degrees they cast me into an indisposition, which increast as the allotted time for the Kings mourning expir'd. The Gods shall be my witness I implor'd them with constant Teares, and Prayers, to send me some such Sickness, as might ruine this little, and unfortunate Bèautie, which was so likely else to ruine me: I did this (generous Artabbanes) out of a true character I had contracted of your virtue, which I concluded could not despise one that wanted Beauty, but by having lost it for you, and who apprehended not the losing your affection, in giving you an evincement as great, as unfortunate, of hir own. Artabbanes by an action altogether humble, and acknowledging interrupted his Princess to make his words doe the like, which to the best of my remembrance were these, Though there are not any things I so passionatly ambition as the transcendent felicity of receiving testimonyes of my

Princesses esteeme, and of satisfiing hir, I adore the Beauty of hir Minde, at least as much as that of hir Face; yet I had much rather be resolv'd of the former, & convince hir of the latter, by assurances & by vowes, than by so fatall a manifestation; neither would the Gods give so undeniable a proose of their want of omnipotency, as to destroy a perfection they cannot restore or repeate; 'twas better a thousand times the criminall Artabbanes should lose his hopes, than the world so unimitable a Beauty; and Arsaces could not be so unjust in having so persecuting a Passion for it, as you Madam, in wishing it so deare and criminall a cure. I did not only (said the fair Partheniſſa) wish it that cure, but rather than he should want it, I would have conferr'd it on him by my Death; and 'twas but fit I should act that for the preservation of my affection, which only can put a period to it. My Prince would have made hir some proportionate retributions to what had made him esteeme it necessarie, had he not esteem'd it more so, to obey his Princesse, who impos'd on him the keeping of silence, and as a further confinement to it

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ſhe thus continu'd hir discourſe. Whilſt I was languiſhing away a Time which yet I thought much more too-ſhort, than Arſaces the contrary, the generous Pacorus never left ſoliciting his Father, 'till he had procur'd a ſecond Army to repaire the disgrace of having loſt the firſt; which he had no ſooner obtain'd, than he did too a Victory againſt the Armenians, which had wanted nothing of meriting that Name, had it bin wonne againſt the ſame Generall, to whom Pacorus had loſt one; but perhaps had he bin preſent, who ſhould have perfected his ſucceſs, it might have hinder'd it. Artavaſdes thought he deriv'd this Civility from Symander, 'till he had proteſted he did that Truth from Partheniſſa, whoſe words, and Story the Faithfull Servant thus proſecuted. My indiſpoſition (the Princeſs continu'd) proceeding abſolutely from that of the Minde, had a languiſhing, and ſlow operation on the Body, which the *Phyſitians* ſaid nothing but time could render dangerous. Arſaces having aſſum'd this belief, the leſs inconveniently to paſs away the remainder of the Morning Year, or to uſurp the Glory

of his Sons ſucceſs, or (as he proteſted to me) to avoy'd ſeeing my indiſpoſition, which his ſympathy would make him aſſume, with an Army rais'd in haſte, he march'd ſo, to the ſiege of Tygranocerta, which Pacorus the next day after his Victory had beſieg'd. Artabbanes to exempt the fair Partheniſſa from an unneceſſarie trouble, acquainted hir, how he had from the generous Ventidius, reciev'd at large the relation of all thoſe tranſactions in Armenia, which he promis'd that Night to Communicate to Sillaces. I have then (ſaid the fair Partheniſſa) but to informe you, that Arſaces came to Niniveh before Pacorus & Altezeera, which though he alleadg'd was but to render hir reception the more conſiderable, was indeed to ſummon me of my inferr'd engagement, the laſt day of his mourning, being that of his returne. The continuance of my indiſpoſition gave me an accepted excuſe, which I would have conſtantly purchas'd at the ſame rate. Neither did I deſpaire of both, and that which gave me thoſe hopes was, the having loſt all Mine of your returnes; for now 'twas above two Years, ſince we had remain'd in

a perfect ignorance of your Fortunes; which made me apprehende Orodes affection for me, and his knowledge of mine for you, had made him destroy what I wanted but the certainty of, to doe the like unto my self; But Surena by passionate Oaths of Arsaces innocence, remov'd my jealousies of him; but nothing could my feares for you, which I hoped would have so impair'd my small Beautie, that by my loss of it, you had not suffer'd the loss of me; But not long after I found the flattery of those imaginations, which Arsaces by a visit entirely banisht, for after he had commanded (having first obtain'd my permission) all the Company to retire, he told me; That indisposition (Madam) which I did hitherto consider as my punishment alone, I now doe as yours also, for the just Gods have impos'd it on you, to revenge your not rewarding a Flame as bright, and pure, as those Eyes, and that virtue which created it. The yeare of mourning my fair Princess is now expir'd; Your so long declining to be my Queene, made my Minde weare that Livery, as much as my Body did, for the loss of my other: let

not your coldneſs make me any longer carry it; neither Madam can you doe it, without publiſhing you have not delay'd, but refus'd to reward my Paſſion, for ſince to deny me my cure, you decline your own, that belief will be with more reaſon aſſum'd, than it can be Rejected. Sir (I reply'd) you might rather inferre from the ſtrange continuance of my indiſpoſition, that the Gods are not a little ingag'd to prevent an union ſo unworthy the great Arſaces, and conſequently ſo apprehended by me: therefore (Sir) you cannot conſider that as my puniſhment, which is both the Gods and my deſire; but could my receiving your affection be as efficatious as you alleadge, judge then I beſeech you thereby, how much I am concern'd in not comitting that fault, ſince to prevent it, I decline not only my owne cure, but my Kings. You may my fair Princeſs (ſaid Arſaces) rather conclude, that your indiſpoſition if not ſent you as a puniſhment from the Gods, is at leaſt ſent you as an evincement my Flame is confin'd to you, more than to your Beauty; and that they are not a little concern'd in the manifeſtation of this truth,

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ſince they elect ſo deare a way to evince it, and rather then not prove the greatneſs of the one, impaire the greatneſs of the other. If Madam I had the power to obey your Commands of a longer expectancy, I ſhould not implore their revocation; for the higheſt honor next to obeying, is receiving them; doe not therefore fair Partheniſſa expect a teſtimony of my reſpect, from what will give you an ill one of my Flame, and believe it Madam, that muſt be an impoſſibility, which your Comands, & ſatisfaction, cannot make me obey. He entertain'd me with many profeſſions, and requeſts of this Nature, before he left me; And a little after Surena came to viſit me, but with a Countenance as full of ſadneſs, as my Heart, which he brought no ſmall acceſſion to, by aſſuring me he fear'd our Griefs, had the ſame ſource; Alas I found his apprehenſions were but too-juſtly grounded, when he further aſſur'd me, that at his meeting Arſaces as he came out of my Chāber, he had told him, that he now found what he had conſider'd as a delay, was a refuſall, but that he was determin'd to make all thoſe that meant to delude him, finde in the

the end, that they did delude themselves. He said this too (continu'd Surena) in one of those Tones which he uses when he is unchangeably in earnest, which makes me conclude he will shortly make use of Power, to obtaine what he cannot by intreaty. Alas Surena (I reply'd) is there no way but Death, to avoyd a Tyrany I more justly detest? Truly Madam he answer'd, I am confident there is no way of prevention left by Flight; For under the Title of his future Queene, he has already given you a Guard, which is not so much to defend, as to detayne you; & could we deceive their intelligence, or corrupt their Faith, what retreate could you propound; for all the Kings of Asia would feare the receiving a Beautie, which unavoydably will carry a Warre after it, as great as it self, and by making a while their Kingdomes a Sanctuary for you, render them in a short time none for themselves; for Arsaces will employ all the forces of his Empire, to repossess what he values more than it, which will hinder any Prince from so dangerous a Charity. I must then (I reply'd) be my own Sanctuary, and the first insolence Arsaces offers me,

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ſhall be the laſt; for whē he looſes the reſpect due unto my Sexe, I will looſe that due unto his Quality, and let him know I liv'd only for Artabbanes, which when I may no longer doe in this world, I will goe & expect him in an other, where all Power is employ'd to preſerve, not perſecute a generous Paſſion. But Madam, (ſaid Surena) ſhould the Gods call unto them the bleſſed Artabbanes who is the cauſe of this Conſtancy, would not the effect then ceaſe? and might not Orodes expect your Affection, when you could no longer conferre it on his Ryvall? If ſaid I (much offended at ſo ſtrange a queſtion) the Gods call Artabbanes to a fitter reſidence for him, I ſhall eſteeme it ſo for me, & ſoone after give him my Company, either by the helpe of my Griefe, or Reſolution. I had ſcarce ended theſe words, when I found Surena at my Feet, where in expreſſions as humble, and moveing, as his poſture, he implor'd a freſh pardon for having perſecuted, & injur'd a Flame ſo pure, that it ſhew'd him he had acted a Sinne, in only adoring the poſſeſſor of it; which to repaire, he would leave no meanes unaſſay'd; and if all others

fail'd he would involve the Parthian Empire in as great troubles, as the King of it could involve me. This proceeding made me change those words into retributions, which I intended to have imploy'd in reproaches, which his seeming solicitation for the King, made me esteem him worthy of. Surena was as much satisfy'd with my Gratitude, as I was with the cause of it, and to misimploy no time, he went immediatly to Arsaces to search further into his resolutions. All that Day & the next, I heard nothing either from him or the King, the last consol'd me for the first, but the Night of the Third, Surena came into my Chamber somewhat late, and told me, that the cause why he had not so long visited me, and why he then did it at so unseasonable an houre, was to doe me service, & to bring me the Newes he had done it. For (said he) at length Madam I have perswaded Orodes, that your coldnesse proceeds from your indispositiō, of which you might be soone recover'd, did you but change the Ayre; That the Castle of Eden (which stands in the Island that beares the same Name) is a place whose strength, and scituation, was as

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fit for your cure, as safety, and that if with your Sickness, you did not cast off your disdaine, there would be then no excuse left you, and a sufficient one given him to act his desires by those wayes, he should imagine soonest feasible & conducive to them: I was Madam (continu'd Surena) necessitated to give him hopes of success, to hinder him from acting it, and 'twas thereby that I have procur'd your license to goe into this Castle, where I shall have more oppertunities to act your securitie, than I can have here; for the Garrison (as the Castle) is mine, & if Orodes should cõtinue his Passion, I hope so to order your affaires, that you shall never be the Sacrifice of it. I made Surena many retributiõs proportionate to the obligations. The next day I had the honor to Receive a visit from the Princess Altezeera, who, was newly come to Nineveh, in whose Person & Conversatiõ I found almost Charmes enough to suppress that disatisfaction, I had contracted for hir inconstancy to the generous Artavasdes, who I knew could not but Deserve hir Love, because he did possess Artabbanes's Friendship. I was disinabled from making hir my

Retributiõs at hir own Appartment, or making a greater acquaintance with hir, which my firſt ſeeing hir gave me a paſſionate deſire of; for the King intent upon every thing which might probably contribute to my health, the ſucceeding morning gave me a viſit, & conjur'd me as he condeſcended to every thing for my ſatisfaction, ſo by a reſembling returne, I could reward his care, & paſſion. I was exempted from giving him any reply, by the arrivall of Lyndadory, & Zephalinda, to whom I had given advice of my ſudden remove, and whoſe companyes in my retreat I had deſir'd, and obtain'd; Arſaces obſerving by their preſence, he could neither continue his diſcourſes nor expect any returnes to them, led me to a Gally, which was provided for us, and then as a Civilitie accompany'd us to the Caſtle of Eden, only (as he ſaid) to ſee if there wanted any thing for our reception. Wee had not many Furlongs thither, yet our aſcending the Current (becauſe the violence of it) took up the whole Day, ſo that Arſaces continu'd there all the Night, which (as Surena told me) he ſpent in giving the Captain

tain of my Guard (that follow'd me) instructions to prevent my escape, should I have any such designe, and promising to his Care, recõpenses such as nothing should transcend but his punishments, should he neglect it. The day following, Artabbanes (taking away Surena's Garrison, alleadging it unfit they should be where his Guards were) after some assurances of his Passion, and desires to receive, and reward it, return'd to Nineveh, which perhaps he did the sooner, from a belief, that his absence would be as contributarie to my health, as any other prescription. The Isle of Eden is a place so repleniſht with all the Beauties of Art, and Nature, that doubtless the Iews, (a Nation not very remote) have some reason to justifie it, the scituation of the Earthly Paradice, for I believe 'tis as difficult to finde in it a defect, as to wish it an addition. For some Moons, in this pleasing residence, we past a Life that had no Cloudes, but what our feares, and sufferings for the absence of you two created, but to these not long after we added that of Orodes Company, who one day told me, he could no longer deprive himself of Mine, &

that I must prepare next morning to return to Nineveh, to assume a Title I had but too long declin'd. Though I made many pressing implorings to suspend a little longer my return to a place which had so much indanger'd my health, and my leaving one, had so much restor'd it; yet he was as deaf to my Prayers, as I had bin to his, for immediately he gave order for my removeall next Day, and the same went to Nineveh, (as he said) to make my reception the less unworthy of me. Surena begg'd his permission to remain in Eden that Night, to do the last honors of his House, and to wait on me in my return; but Arsaces, either from wilfullness, or suspition would not permit it. They were no sooner gone, than Zephalinda, and Lindadory came to my Appartment to consult on so great an extremitie, which was the more so, by Surena's necessitated, and unexpected remove; on whose advise, and promises, I had establisht my greatest confidence; but alas, we found in our consultations rather subjects, of despair, than relief; for the more we reflected on my danger, the higher we alwayes found it. At length I told them,

them, that what confin'd me from hopes of escaping, taught me what to elect, & though the cruel Gods hinder'd my being Artabbanes's, yet they had not the power to hinder me, from not being any others. This I spoake with a Countenance which did speak my resolutions, and this immediately drew some teares into the Princesses Eyes, which more troubl'd me, than to have acted the designe that caus'd them; whilst I was giving consolations, where it may be another had needed them, there came a Stranger hastily into the Roome, whō we no longer thought one, than whilst he kept his disguise, for as soon as he had cast it off, we knew him to be Surena, who in a disorder'd haste told me; Madam, the concerne I have in your Interests, makes me decline my owne, for only to offer you my service in keeping you from your Enemie, I have made the King irreconciliably mine; for I have not only violated his Commands by leaving Nineveh, but am resolv'd to repeat my disobedience, if the honor of yours enjoyne it me; In a word Madam, Arsaces told me he can no longer decline a blessing he has asmuch power, as

will

will to inveſt himſelf in, and ſince to evince the greatneſs of his reſpect, he has ſo long delay'd it, to evince the greatneſs of his Paſſion, he will no longer do it; that the next day after you return, he will make you his Queene, or if your coldneſs doe decline ſo ſatisfying his deſires, you will thereby invite him to the ſame end, though by a much differing way. Theſe Madam (continu'd Surena) were his very words; which he accompany'd with ſo many and horrid oathes, that he has render'd it a leſs cryme to act his ſin, than to decline it. I am therefore come to offer you a Life for the preſervation of your Loves, which has been too much employ'd to diſtract, and ruine them; I preſent it you aſmuch to repair my cryme, as to hinder my King from acting his, which nothing but ſome ſudden, and brisk reſolution can prevent; were we but out of this Iſland, I durſt promiſe you a retreat in a Kingdome, where I hope you may one day Reigne; For Merinzor, the moſt conſiderable Perſon in Media, now Moneſes and Artabbanes are out of it, is ſo much my friend, and ſo much more one to virtue, that were we but there,

Ariaces

Arſaces muſt take that great Empire, before he take you; This I dare engage my ſelfe for, though I have practic'd the obtaining Merinzors affection, but only ſince I apprehended the violence of my *Kings*, would render it uſefull, and neceſſary to you. We had (ſaid Partheniſſa) after Surena's aſſurance of a Sanctuary, a thouſand propoſitions how to recover it, and that which gave me the greateſt approbation for that which he propounded, was, that Media could not but have many ſervants to Artabbanes, who by the Lawes of it, and Nature, was one day to weare that Crowne; Zephalinda advis'd, that by ſome device or other, Orodes might be againe drawn to viſit us, and then that Surena ſhould ſeize upon him, and make his liberty, the ranſome of Mine, and hir Brothers; with whom, and with hir, I might retire into Media; Lyndadory approv'd this advice ſo ſhe might be of the Company, which ſhe alleadg'd might perhaps bring ſome ſecurity to it, by hir being Daughter to a Prince, whoſe memory there, was in as great, as juſt veneration; ſhe added too, that by my taking ſome Phyſick whoſe operation

ſhould be viſible when Orodes came to viſit me, I might not only confirme him my remove was dangerous, but purchaſe time enough for Surena to draw in force enough to ſecure us from the *Kings*; We had doubtleſs elected this deſigne, had not Surena ſaid, that 'twas a thing impoſſible to delude a jealous Lover; that the effects of an indiſpoſition manifeſted in that conjuncture of time, would appeare rather a Sickneſs aſſum'd, than befallen me; That to take the King Priſoner would raiſe him an Army, which might make me his, ſince many would fight for his liberty, which would not for his obtayning forceably his Miſtris; and if I counterfeited an indiſpoſition, Arſaces Love, or Iealouſie, would keepe him perpetually near me, and ſo render my Flight as impoſſible as deſir'd; but (ſaid Surena) if all theſe Reaſons, were disputable, yet this is not; That by violating my *Kings* Command in coming hither, I have ſo exaſperated him, that he will never truſt himſelfe in a Place, where I have both the Power and Provocation to repeat my Diſobedience. Therefore he concluded there was no other way but immediatly

atly while the Night contributed to their aſſiſtance, under a pretence of giving the Guard their farewell-entertainment to give as many of them Wine, as had not reaſon enough to refuſe it; then to fall upon thoſe who were able to reſiſt, and by their Deaths, force a paſſage to our *Freedomes*, which having obtain'd, to make Media the ſeat of it. There was nothing (ſaid Partheniſſa) I ſcrupl'd at in this, but the deſtroying thoſe Perſons, whoſe *Fidelity* to their *King*, was their only Cryme; but the neceſſity of my condition, made me at laſt condiſcend to what (next being falſe to Artabbanes) I moſt apprehended; only I paſſionatly conjur'd Surena to ſpill no more bloud, than was of neceſſity to be ſhed for our deliverance. To be brief, Surena without his disgnize, went to the Captain of my Guards, to whom (he ſaid) Arſaces had expreſly ſent him from Nineveh, the next morning to waite on me thither, which the other eaſily credited, knowing his Kings Paſſion for me, & his Friendſhip for Surena; who entertain'd the deluded Officer, 'till ſome of his Servants had made all thoſe of the Guard drunke, that had a

minde to be ſo; About Midnight whē all was buried in ſleepe, & ſilence, but thoſe which knew the Deſigne, and thoſe which had the Guard, Surena with all his Domeſticks fell upon them, and though his Numbers exceeded theirs yet their, Captain, who knew how certaine a Death his defeate would be from his Enemyes, or his King, ſo briskly disputed his Fate, that Surena began to doubt his owne, which to decide, he reſolutely Charg'd the Captain, who he found was the Soule of his Party, and whom, after a long and bloudy dispute, he left dead upon the place; all the Souldiers Courages fell with their Officers, ſo that Surena remembring my preſſing deſires, ſav'd their Lives; Surena cover'd with Bloud, and victory, came to my Chamber, and begg'd me ſo to employ the latter, that before Orodes could know his action, we might be where he could not revenge it. I told him, this was a requeſt fitter for me than him, & that I left the ordering of my liberty, to the Beſtower of it; he deſir'd me then by the dawn of day to be ready, by which, ſome Charriots, & my Equipage ſhould be; to haſten which he left

left me. We were too-much concern'd in our joy to loſe the ſolemnizing of it by ſleep, and whilſt Surena was contributing to convert our hopes of ſafetie into an actuall one, his generous Siſter, yours, and I, entertain'd one another, with the rare, and high effects of his Friendſhip; and with the proportionate obligation I had unto him for them.

Symander was in this place of his relation, when it was interrupted by what made his Auditors think it no misfortune; For 'twas by the confuſ'd running in of diverſe Prieſts of Venus, who came to acquaint their Superior, that the Dome of the Temple was fill'd with Lightnings, as bright, as ever their Goddeſs's Eyes did ſhoot; that the foundation of the ſacred vault trembl'd; and in a word, that all the ſymptomes of the Oracles being reſtor'd to the liberty of ſpeaking, were ſo viſible, that none with reaſon could apprehend the contrary. Callimmachus by an erection of his Eyes, and hands, acknowledg'd his gratitude to hir, and his concern in our Heroe's, whoſe Pardons he begged (for Artabbanes by this time was come out of the Gallerie to participate in the Newes)

Newes) that the function of his vocation would not permit him, to wait on them again 'till the morning; to which he added, that he hoped they would the sooner grant it him, since his absence was necessary to the learning of their Fate, which the next day he told them infallibly they should. With this flattering assurance, he left the generous Lovers, who, whilst Calimmachus was employ'd in preparing the Sacrifices, were in discoursing what effects they could produce.

PARTHENISSA

THE SECOND PART.

THE SIXTH BOOK.

OVR Heroe's who that Night had ſlept as little as the Sun, were too, as early up, and he had not long guilded with his Beams, the Pinnacles of the Temple, when the Chief of it, came to advertiſe them, That within an Houre the requiſite oblatiõs would be ready; He brought in with him the Chyrurgions, who aſſur'd the Princes, that they had made their danger the greate

greater, but to render ſo, the certainty and ſuddenneſs of their recoverie; and that they might not only go and receive the Oracle themſelves, but if it commanded them a journey, they might too perform it; Neither did they only make theſe aſſurances, but by taking off their plaiſters, evinced their truth, which as much ſurpriz'd, as pleaſ'd thoſe that had receiv'd the wounds, and Callimmachus, who was no leſs concern'd in them, who conjur'd our Princes to reflect on the cure of the Bodie, as an earneſt of that of the Minde. Artabbanes who was the moſt deſperate Patient in that Sickneſs, gave Calimmachus ſuch a reply as he was forc't to tell him. Your condition (generous Prince) cannot be worſe than Mine has bin, for I have ador'd a Beautie, with a Paſſion, both which never knew any Superior; and though the Gods call'd hir to them in as fatall a way as ever they could the faire Partheniſſa, yet thoſe powers have demonſtrated theirs, in giving me afterwards a quiet, which made me envie no ones elſe: They cannot be Gods were they not omnipotent, and being ſo, to doubt their goodneſs, were to invite them

them not to manifeſt it. Artabbanes & Artavaſdes were both extreamly ſatisfy'd to learne an aſſurance of ſo ſtrange a truth, from a mouth they could not doubt, which by demonſtrating there were wayes of felicitie in Love without fruition, made them no longer believe, That, an impoſſibility, which their having 'till then done, had created their greateſt Torments; And doubtleſs they had then obtain'd from Callimmachus a Story which was ſo requiſite to the eaſe of their ſufferings, as the relation of his would probably have prov'd, had not the Sacrificers come in at the ſame inſtant to tell Callimmachus, that they now expected but his preſence, and Commands, to begin their Dutyes. This Summons plac'd a ſuſpention, though not a period to our Hero's curioſities, which they had no ſooner told Callimmachus, than he promiſt, having heard their Adventures, to acquaint them with his own. Immediatly afterwards he retir'd himſelfe to put on his Pontificall Habit, which having done, he return'd to our Princes, who then perceiv'd in his Meene, that Grace, & Majeſty, which 'till his having acquainted them

he was of the Noble Society of Lovers, they had not obſerv'd; and indeed they were ſo entirely taken up with that contemplation, that not only they eſteem'd him worthy the high Title he poſſeſt of Prince to the Prieſt of Venus, but they had even forgotten in that employment, how that by the dutyes of his, they were then to learne their *Fate*. But Callimmachus himſelf put them in minde of it, by conducting them downe a large Stair-Caſe, built of Marble, which deliver'd them into a broad Walke, border'd on either ſide with five Rowes of Cypreſs, & Myrtle Trees, promiſcuouſly planted, which were water'd by two Springs, whoſe pretty murmurings pleas'd the Eare, aſmuch as their clearneſs did the Eye, or their coolneſs the Taſte; And though the ſides of this Walke were ſo well adorn'd, yet the extreamities of it were much better, for at the Eaſt end, ſtood the Temple it ſelf, and at the Weſt the dwelling of the Prieſts, which in a Creſſant extended its two Hornes to each end of the Mirtle & Cypreſs Trees. 'Twas in this vacuity that our Princes found all the preparatives of a Sacrifice, which was to procure

cure them an Oracle, they had with so many impatiencies expected. The Prince of the Priests was no sooner seene by the rest, than immediatly they directed their steps to the Temple; The first that mov'd, were Two hundred Religious Men, with Garlands of Roses, and Myrtles, on their heads, and in each hand the Effigies of a Flaming Heart, to evidence, the Goddess they ador'd, was the Queene, & Inspirer of Love. After these follow'd Fifty white Bulls, & as many white Heifers crown'd with Garlands of Annemines, in celebration of Venus's changing hir fair Adonis into that flower; These were led by a Hundred young Men in cloathes, as white, as those Nature had given the Beasts they held; Fifty Maids in the same Livery carryed in their hands as many paire of Turtles; And after these, Fifty others carry'd in Silver Cages as many Swans. These were follow'd by the Augurs and Victimares, the former, bearing a Cælestiall Globe as a Badge of their Profession, and the others, some Sizers of Gold, some Sacrificeing Knives, and some Axes of Silver, as a Badge of theirs. Those Youths which carry'd

ry'd the Wine and *Milke*, follow'd two and two, in their places & order; and laſt of all, ſome Tenne Paces before Callimmachus (who was follow'd at that diſtance by our Hero's) there went the Virgin who was to deliver the Oracle; She was bleſt with ſo much *Beauty*, that ſhe appear'd a fit Servant for the Queene of it; Hir Robes were as white as hir thoughts; the treſſes of hir Haire were ſo bright, and long, that they merited better to be converted into a Conſtellation, than *Berenices* did; they were ty'd up with Delphian Lawrell, & wreath'd Garlands of the ſame, crown'd hir Head: 'twas in this order the generous troop arriv'd at the Temple, whoſe Front extended it ſelf from North to South, a hundred and Fifty *Geometricall Paces*; at whoſe extreamities were two *Pavilions*, whoſe *Pinnacles* ſeem'd to looſe themſelves in the Clowdes. The Walls both of theſe, & the Curtaine, were adorn'd with great *Branches* of Foliage carv'd in the ſtone, and in a large Compartiment compos'd of Groteskery were ſeene Sphynxes, Harpyes, the Clawes of Lyons, and Tygres, to evidence, that within, inhabited *Miſteries*, and Riddles,

Riddles. Over the Portall was a table adorn'd with a larger Compartiment, wherein there was in bigg Letters of maſſie Gold inchaſed into a great ſquare of Porphire, this Inſcription: *THE TEMPLE OF THE* GODDESSE *OF* LOVE, *AND OF VVHAT INSPIRES IT.* On each ſide of the Portall, there aroſe from the Earth two ſquare Baſements, the Plinth of each of them was beautify'd with ſculptures of great Relieve; one of them was crown'd with the Statue (in Pharian Stone) of the Boy the Goddeſs brought into the world; And the other in Corinthian Stone, of the Boy ſhe lov'd beſt in it: Our Hero's had hardly leaſure to conſider theſe few exterior imbelliſhments amongſt ſo many others, becauſe Callimmachus having given the Signall, the Sacrificers and victimaries ſtopt their martch, and having rang'd themſelves and their victimes on either ſide the way, made a large one for their Prince, who ſtill follow'd by Artabbanes and Artavaſdes, went into the Quire of the Temple, which immediately eccho'd with ſuch divers and harmonious voyces,

that for a while all their faculties reſign'd up their Functions to their hearing; but that Sence at length reſign'd its empire to the Sight, which wanting Partheniſſa and Altezeera, could not more nobly be entertain'd, than in the adornings of the Temple. The firſt Table was Venus aſcention out of the Sea, much more white than that froth the Poets ſay ſhe was compoſ'd of. Near this was a much larger, where the happy Paris ſtood Iudge of thoſe Beauties, whoſe perfections came in competition, by that Apple given at Peleus wedding, by the Goddeſs of Diſcord. Never any Beauties more juſtly merited that name, than thoſe the Painter had expoſ'd to the judgement of the happy Son of Hecuba; but yet the Artiſt had ſo much given the preheminence to hir, to whom Paris did, that he could not have declin'd doing ſo, without being as blinde, as hir Son. Oppoſite to this Picture was the Goddeſs's falling in Love with the faire Anchiſes, who graſing his Herds, little thought how near he was poſſeſſing ſo much Beautie, & being Father to a Son, whoſe Sword was to conquer as many, as his Mothers Eyes. Neare

to

to this laſt Table, was the Beautifull Son of Cinyras, who Venus more admir'd, than he did hir; & in the ſame Picture was contain'd all their Amour's, how ſhe wept his being kill'd by the Boare, or his being drown'd contemplating his owne Beautie in the ſtreame, for of both thoſe ſome learned *Po*ets have ſung. Laſtly hir converting his dead bodie into an Annemine, which ſhe water'd with hir tears, and who by death being render'd uncapable to reward hir weepings, by kiſſing them away, ſeem'd eternally to bluſh at ſo unfortunate an impotence. In a word, all the reall or imaginarie Loves of that bright Goddeſs, were ſo well repreſented by the Artiſt, that if ſhe had no cauſe to bluſh for hir electing the originals, ſhe had as little, for avowing them in the Coppy; only indeed hir unfortunate ſurprize in the Arms of *Mars*, occaſion'd by a Paſſion as ugly as the *Poſſeſſor* of it, was there purpoſely omitted; but the wound ſhe receiv'd from the cruell Diomed was not, eſteeming it perhaps a greater glory to evince, hir bloud gave a being to the lovely Roſe, than a ſhame or prejudice that a Deitie could bleed.

But

But all these representations being rather evincements, she was the Subject, than the Goddess of Love, in other Tables were the illustrations of that truth. There our Princes saw the volatile Iupiter, courting, and possessing the faire Io; the strange Metamorphosis the God made of hir to conceal his Amours from the jealous Iuno; how in spight of his disguise she discover'd them, then begs, and obtain'd the transform'd Io, of hir Lord, who grants, what he durst not refuse; how the Nymph was committed by the suspitious Goddess to the care of Argus, whose hundred Eyes were too vigilant for the offended God, who to make those Centinels sleepe eternally, that would not momentarily, sends down Mercury, who by the charms of his Musick, ends his vigilance, then with his sword ends his Life; how Iuno having first adorn'd the trayn of hir own Bird, with the Eyes of the unfortunate and faithfull Argus, to let hir God understand she not only knew, but could revenge his Murther, makes Io as frantick, as hir jealousie had made hir; who yet runs with the same celerity over the world, as she would

to

to the embraces of hir Iupiter. The Painter in an other ſide of the ſame Table ſhew'd, how the Heifer flew to her Father Inachus, into whoſe trembling ſtreame ſhe leaps to quench hir heat, and thirſt; from thence he makes hir run into Egypt, where ſhe reſumes hir former ſhape by the permiſſion of Iuno, who had then receiv'd an aſſurance from Iupiter to abſtain both from the deſires, and acts of love; the gratefull Io in hir true ſhape returnes to let hir Father ſee it, that he might participate in hir joy, as he did in hir affliction, which latter had ſo operated on him, that he had wept himſelf ſo big, he was as unknowable to his Daughter, as ſhe had bin to him; but at length, maugre their new disguiſes, they knew each other, and Io having perform'd this charitable dutie, returns again to the Banks of Nyle, where hir exterior, and intrinſecall Beauties, made the People which drink of that Floud, elect hir for their Goddeſs, under the name of Iſis. In an other Table was the ſame inconſtant God fallen in Love with the fair Daughter of Lycaon King of Arcadia; but knowing that warres of Love are different from all other,

ſince in thoſe, the conqueſt by yielding, is more pleaſing than that by force, the God layes aſide his power, and finding one day, the fair Caliſto repoſing hirſelf after the chaſe, under the friendly ſhadow of ſome Myrtle Trees, he aſſumes the ſhape of Diana, whoſe Nymph ſhe was, and in that Metamorphoſis enjoyes felicities which do more Metamorphoſe him; nay, he ſeems to eſteem his power of altering his ſhape, more than that of being a God, ſince the former afforded him tranſcendenter delights in the fruition of his Caliſto, than the latter, in the moſt powerfull effect it could otherwiſe produce. In the ſame Table was demonſtrated how Diana discover'd the loſs of hir Nymph's pudicitie, how ſhe baniſht hir from hir Societie, how the unfortunate Caliſto was deliver'd of Arcas, all which the ſuſpitious Iuno at laſt discover'd, and in revenge converted hir Ryvall into a Beare, which Arcas once had kill'd a hunting, had not Iupiter (taking pitie of both,) caught them up into Heaven, and converted each of them into a Conſtellation. It ſeem'd that the Goddeſs of Love took delight to have

expoſ'd

expos'd to the Eyes of *Men*, how much, and how often, the great Iupiter was hir votarie; for there was an other Table of his Loves with the Beautifull Daughter of Acrisius, King of the Argives, who was so strictly imprison'd upon hir Father's receiving an Oracle of his Death, by hir Sonne, that the amorous God was necessitated to convert himself into a Golden shower, to quench his flame. There was display'd in the same Table, Acrisius exposing his fair Daughter, with the young Perseus to the mercie of that Element, from whence the Queene of that Passion which created hir fault, had hir originall; how she, and hir Sonne were cast upon the Coast of Daunia, and how Pilumnus the King of it marryed hir: There was in an other end of the Pictures, the three *Gorgons*, *Medusa*, Schenio, and Euriole, with their Tresses of Snakes, and with their one Eye, with which they Metamorphos'd into stone all they beheld: In the same Table was Mercury, and Pallas, arming the valiant Perseus against these three Sisters, how he found the eldest of them, and all hir Snakes, asleepe, whose head he immediately cut off, and

plac'd in his Shield, with which he turn'd Atlas King of *Mauritania* into ſtone, for denying him entertainment. In a word, there were all the actions of this demi-God, how he conquer'd the Monſter, that would have devour'd the beautifull Andromeda, & how he himſelf was conquer'd by hir; with all thoſe other Fables the *Poets* have ſo amply ſung on this Subject: Two other *Pictures* contain'd the Paſſions of the ſame God to the fair Europa, and his aſſuming a Beaſts ſhape, to act the ſenſuall part of Love; and of the *Platonick* Moon, who to poſſeſs Endimion render'd him uncapable to poſſeſs hir, but by dreams: There was in other tables the Amours of Aurora and Cephalus, with the Death of the unchaſte and jealous Procris; and to ſhew the power of Love indeed, and that the Sea it ſelf cannot quench its flames; there were alſo māifeſted at large, how the God of that cold Element fell in love with the fair Amphitrite, how ſhe fled his *Paſſion*, and how he ſent a Dolphin after hir, who prov'd a ſucceſsfull Embaſſador. And though all thoſe Tables were ſo admirably repreſented, that to know the Story,

you

you needed but to ſee the Pictures, yet there were two others which ſo intirely tooke up our Hero's contemplation, that after the ſight of them, they eſteem'd none of the remaining ones worthy of theirs; The firſt was of a Beautie which could not but be excellent, ſince in Artabbanes's owne opinion, ſhe reſembl'd the faire Partheniſſa. 'Twas that of the lovely Pſiche, ſhe that captivated the God of Love himſelfe, & was ſo long taken for Venus, that had ſhe bin immortall, ſhe had eternally (as ſhe did for a time) rob hir of hir votaries & Altars; The Artiſt had ſo well repreſented this Nymph, that it Authoriz'd Venus's Enuy and Mens miſtake. There was in this repreſentation, how the King of Mileſia hir Father, by the command of an Oracle, abandon'd hir to the Gods upon a Mountaine, how the Zephirs carry'd hir on their wings, into the fortunate Iſland to the Palace of Love, which 'till then, nor ever ſince, could boaſt of ſo admirable an Adornment; how the fair Pſiche's two Siſters, at hir requeſt were brought thither by the Zephirs, who envying their Siſters felicity, perſwaded hir 'twas not a God, but a Serpent

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ſhe bleſt with hir embraces; how the credulous Nymph contrary to hir engagement, conceal'd a Lampe by hir Bedds ſide, with which when the little God had ſtupify'd his Sences by too-much ſatisfying them, ſhe reſolv'd hir doubts, but by ſo unfortunate a way that a drop of Oyle fell upon Cupid, who immediatly wak'd & flew away: There were further repreſented the tragick Death of the fair Pſiche's Siſters; The Miſeries which after that fatall Night befell hir; hir deſcent into Hell, & at length hir aſcent into Heaven, to marry hir God, who now had pardon'd hir Cryme, & thereby deriv'd a more ſublime ſatisfaction from his mercy, than he could have had in his Revenge. The laſt Picture, which tooke up Artavaſdes as much as the other had Artabbanes's attētiõ, was that of the lovely Leucothoe, who as much reſembl'd the faire Altezeera as Pſiche's did Partheniſſa. This Table evinc'd, that Arte or Nature were admirable, the laſt if it preſented the world with ſuch originalls, or the firſt if it could fancy or deſcribe them. This was the largeſt repreſentation of any there, for it firſt contain'd the Amours of Phæbus

and

and Clittie, how that the former having extinguisht all his Flames in the fountaine of Love, lighted them againe at the Eyes of the lovely Leucothoe; well did that performance prove, that light, like virtue, looses nothing by communication, for hir faire Eyes possest still as much light, as they had given the Sunn; Leucothoe seem'd to have something of felicity in hir Countenãce, which was deriv'd, not so much from having ravisht such a votary from such a Nymph, but that *Phœbus* who every day beheld all the Perfections of the world, gave hirs by his adoring them, the precedency; 'Twas admirable to observe how the envious Sunne, which fades all other Beauties, did but enlighten hirs; how his perpetuall kissing hir Breasts, and not melting them, abundantly prov'd they had only the colour, not the nature of snowe; how it was a perpetuall summer where ever Leucothoe was, how if she flung hir self under the protection of Trees, they soone lost their treasure, for hindring the Sun from beholding his; & how that Lover, evinc'd by their immediate withering, that he could burne all, but hir that did burn him;

him; ſo conſtant, and ſo bright a Servant, could not eternally be deny'd; Leucothoes coldneſs at length was diſſolv'd, and Phæbus in hir embraces, receiv'd more joyes, than the world does in his Light; but alas, thoſe felicities which fruition could not quench, weeping muſt; for the abandon'd Clittie aſſumes a rage proportionate to the loſs which inſpir'd it, and in the dictates of that Paſſion, acquaints Orchamus (Leucothoes Father) with hir ſtolen Amours; & though the betray'd Nymph in a poſture as moving as hir teares, repreſented the glory of ſuch an Alliance, and that to pleaſe one of the Gods; could not be a ſin againſt the reſt, yet the cruell Orchamus buryes hir alive with hir Crymes; the Sun frighted at ſuch a Prodigie, hides his face in Cloudes; and weepes ſuch ſhowers of teares, that the world by his ſorrow, knew his Love. 'Twas well for Mortalls that he was confin'd eternally to his Ecliptick, otherwiſe, to act his revenge, he had deſcended on the earth, and reduced all to the ſame Aſhes, his deare Leucothoe was; which the Fates having render'd him uncapable of, he immediatly converts hir dead body

body into an Inſence-tree, whoſe ſweetneſs ſeem'd to reſerve ſomething of its firſt principle, and though dead, as much to charm the ſmell, or when living, the ſight. In an other place of the *Pi*cture was Clittie, who *Phœ*bus now hated as much as he had ador'd, running from one top of a Mountain, to an other, to overtake, and be near hir Lover, who to deprive hir of his ſight, as well as Company, or perhaps having put on mourning for the fair, and unfortunate Leucothoe, travell'd ſtill in a gloomie Clowd, which he had perpetually worn in revenge, and grief, had not mortals by inceſſant ſacrifices, but eſpecially by thoſe offer'd of the new Inſẽce, obtain'd the Gods cõmand to aſſume his former brightnes; which at leaſt he did; but then Clittie found hirſelf doubly burn'd, by hir heat, & by his; you might have ſeen hir, ſõetimes threatning, ſometimes imploring hir Lover; now invoking his power; then his juſtice; & finally crying out, Either ſtay thy courſe, or give me the wings of thy Inconſtãcy to overtake thee; hir Prayers, hir Tears, & hir Cries, operating no more on Phœbus, than that Nymphs ſhe had betray'd, did on

Orchamus, ſhe fix'd hir Eyes inceſſantly on hir Lover, & by that *Poſture*,& hir unmovableeſs in it, by degrees took root, & by the Gods was converted into a Marygold; who all day conſtantly gazes on the Sun, and all the night turns her head towards the Earth, as if ſhe ſtrove to force a *Paſſage* with hir Eyes thorough the Centre, to the Antipodes, not to be at any time depriv'd of ſeeing hir Lover. Our two Hero's found not only a reſemblance in Beautie, but in Fortunes betwixt thoſe two Nymphs, & their two Princeſſes; For Artabbanes was confidét the Gods had taken his Partheniſſa from the Earth, but to marry hir to one of them in Heaven, as the lovely *Pſiche* was; and in that *Faith* he almoſt apprehended to go thither, ſince that could not but be Hell, where he ſhould ſee his Princeſs in an others Arms. And Artavaſdes thought, that what Orchamus had done to his Daughter, Artabazus, or misfortune had done to Altezeera, who he conſider'd as bury'd alive in Pacorus's embraces. The Gods having depriv'd our Hero's of ſeeing their Princeſſes, the beſt felicitie they could allow them, conſiſted in ſeeing what

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ſo much reſembl'd them; on which they had as conſtantly, and perhaps as eternally fix'd their Eyes, as Clittie did hirs on hir Phœbus, had not Callimmachus acquainted them, 'twas time to offer the ſacrifices of perfumes, and Turtles, which ceremony being ended, they all went out of the Temple, and immediately the Prince of it having given the ſignall, the effuſions of Wine, and Milk, were made; ſome ſmall tufts of hair which grew between the Horns of the Bulls, and Heifers, were cut with golden Sizers, and flung into the Flame; which had no ſooner conſum'd them, than in a Moment all the Beaſts were knock'd down by the victimaries, and their Entrails torn out, and preſented to Callimmachus, who conſider'd the Propheticall part of them, with ſo ſublime a joy, that it forc'd him to whiſper to our Princes, that the Gods without a Miracle, and without ruining the Laws they themſelves had eſtabliſh'd; could not long delay their felicities, for never were greater promiſes in victims, than in thoſe. This aſſurance brought our Hero's different Hopes, Artabbanes was joy'd in a belief that the

Gods would command him to act his own Death, since he could not fancy any other way to quiet. And Artavasdes interpreted he should derive his satisfaction from their removing Pacorus, and placing him in his *Felicities*: but they were both diverted from any further reflections, by the Augurs giving libertie to the Swanns out of their silver *Prisons*, who immediately directed their flight to Heaven, as to acknowledge their deliverance from thence; and were intended thither as a sacrifice of quicker ascension than that of Insence. All these solemnities being finish'd, those which assisted at them, return'd again into an other Ile of the Temple, where stood a Statue of Venus, which took up as much, and as justly the Beholders admiration, as the Deitie could, which it represented; it was all of Mosaick work, and the peeces cimmented with such excellent Art, that the most critticall Anatomist could not have mist so much as a veine, a sinew, or an Arterie. The Beauties of colours, of Aire, and of Features, were as exact, as those of Cimmetrie; and for Eyes, the Statue was imbellish'd

with

with two ſuch refulgent Diamonds, that their very luſtre, like that of the Suns, hinder'd them from being conſider'd but by reflection: and thereby render'd the boldly contemplating the Deities face, as great an impoſſibilitie, as a Sin. 'Twas at the feet of this admirable Statue, that Callimmachus proſtrated himſelf, having in the ſame poſture on either of his ſides, one of our Princes, who with perfect attentions, and equall devotiō, heard him deliver this ſhort Prayer

Faireſt of all Goddeſſes, thou who firſt deriv'ſt that Title from Nature, and then from Iuſtice; Thou from whom all other Gods receive their votaries, ſince only by thy ſweet influences, Mankinde is created, and continu'd, and ſacrifices too; behold proſtrate before thee, two of thy votaries, who have never offer'd on thy Altars, Falſe, or double Fires, but have ſo conſtantly preſerv'd thoſe wounds thy Sonne firſt made in their hearts, that ever ſince they were, and are fit examples for thy ſubjects, to continue ſuch; Though even their ſufferings have at leaſt proportionated their Conſtancie; doe not great Goddeſs ſo juſtly deterre Mortalls from that virtue, as to render it the ruine of thoſe who moſt perfectly poſſeſs it; nor

give

give those who allready doubt thy Power, or Iustice, so much provocation to continue their Sinn, as thy continuing the misfortunes of these Lovers will amount unto, but by investing them in felicities, as great as the Beauties they adore, evince that the tryall of Constancy, is not the punishment of it.

Callimmachus having ended his Orizon, gave the Tripos to the Virgin, who on it was to deliver the Oracle, and then with hir, and our two Hero's only, went to the vault, where they were to receive it, which was adorn'd with a Dome, that shot it selfe so high into Heaven, that none which doubted not, that was the residence of the Gods, could doubt they inhabited in it. The Virgin at the mouth of the Vault leaves those three which accompany'd hir thither, and, after hir devotions were finish'd, and that she had settl'd hir self on the Tripos, immediatly the capacious Temple, and sacred Grove were cover'd with obscure Cloudes, from whence strange lightnings, and Thunder, deriv'd their Birth; a Furious Earth-quake shook suddenly the foundation of the Temple, & Grove; the Delphian Lawrell which crown'd the

the Virgins Head, fell off it; hir haire ſtood an end and ſtar'd; hir Eyes roll'd wildly; hir Neck in a thouſand turnings kept it ſelf in unceſſant motion; hir heart beat againſt hir Breſt, as if it would have forc'd a paſſage there; hir Mouth foam'd; and in a word, all the ſymptomes that the Deity inſpir'd and poſſeſt hir, were viſible; but that which render'd it no longer capable of doubts, was a ſhrill voyce which fill'd the ſacred Vault, & deliver'd theſe words:

From Partheniſſa's Aſhes I will raiſe
A Phœnix, in whoſe Flames thou ſhalt be bleſt;
VVait then about this Temple a few Dayes,
And all thy Torments ſhall be crown'd with Reſt.

Then after a ſhort ſilence, the voyce thus continu'd the Oracle:

Deſpaire not Artavaſdes, ſince the tyme
Predeſtin'd for thy Sufferings, is but brief;
Fortune unto thy virtue ſhall reſigne;
And perfect joy, ſucceed to equall Greif.

Go both and ſacrifice to that fair Boy,
VVho did inſpire my higheſt Greif & Ioy.

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Callimmachus by a ſhort but paſſionate ejaculation, acknowledg'd his joy & concern in ſo favourable an Oracle, and then in repeated ſacrifices, did the like; which being finiſh'd, they return'd from the Temple, the ſame way they went unto it, and in a deep ſilence, which the virtuous Prieſt obſerv'd no more, when they were enter'd in our Princes Appartment; For there by a Thouſand embraces he congratulated ſo clear promiſes from the Goddeſs, of their future felicities. It ſeemes (ſaid he) they knew your deſpaires were too-pregnant, to give you dark and ambiguous anſwers, they have now left théſelves no power to continue your miſeries, but by giving Men a full liberty to ſuſpect their Iuſtice, ſo that next the being poſſeſt of your deſires, you have the bleſt ſecurity of being ſo. The Oracle (Artabbanes coldly reply'd) is very clear, and 'tis as much ſo, that the Death the Gods hitherto hinder'd me from acting, they now promiſe me, by ſaying Partheniſſa is reduc'd to Aſhes: They would too have ſaid, that all my Torments ſhall be crown'd with joy, not reſt, had they deſign'd me any beſſings in Life, and the

Phœnix

Phenix they promiſe to raiſe from that dead ones Aſhes, is clearly the Conſtancie of my Paſſion, in which I ſhall be bleſt by being conſum'd in the flames of it; and you are not ignorant, but ſo unalterable, and efficatious a love, is as rare, as that Phenix to which the Oracle aludes. Callimmachus, and Artavaſdes both, admir'd at ſo ſtrange an interpretation, but the firſt of them, leſt their ſilence might ſeem to authorize it, told him, If he which ſerves the Deitie, can beſt interpret hir meaning, or rather hir expreſſions, I can find nothing in the Oracle, but what is much advantagious for you; before this anſwer, you wrong'd but the mercie of the Gods in doubting your loyes, but now you muſt their Truth in any longer doing it; for they promiſe a bleſſing to your waiting for it about this Temple; if they meant your Death ſhould be that Bleſſing, they would have permitted you to Act it, and not have contradicted themſelves, by making your languiſhings the way unto it: That word of reſt evidently implyes a ceſſation from ſufferings, and fears; and that Phenix for ought we know, may be Partheniſſa hir ſelf, who

perhaps is but dead to your Belief. Great Gods! (Artabbanes cry'd out) ſhe is but too-certainly dead; Symander ſaw hir ſo; and therefore if you have no other interpretation of that Paſſage, I cannot but determine mine to be the true one: They cannot accompliſh their promiſe of reſt but by Death; 'tis that only after the loſs of Partheniſſa can give it me; they do not aſſure me reſt as the way, but as the end, and Crown of my Torment, ſo that they doe not falſifie, but perfect their Oracle, in giving me no Ceſſation from ſufferings, but by that which confertes it upon every one. Callimmachus who obſerv'd Artabbanes's deſpair did but increaſe by his attempting to qualify it, only reply'd; I have ſeen thoſe who built their Faith on a more firm foundation than you doe yours, and yet have bin (as I hope you will be) happily mistaken; The Oracle I am convinc'd promiſes thoſe bleſſings to you, which we muſt leave to Time, and the Gods to diſcloſe; in the mean while I eſteem it abſolutely requiſite, that you both obey their orders, by ſacrificing in the Temple of Adonis; They would not enjoyn you that

per-

performance, were it not conducive to that end they have promis'd. Artavasdes having given some additionall Arguments to the silencing of his Friends despair, and the creating of his Faith in the best construction of the Oracle, at length extorted an engagement from him, that without any prejudicate opinion of it, he would expect the interpretation. The generous Armenian extreamly satisfy'd with this assurance, began to acquaint him that made it, and Callimmachus, that as soon as he had perform'd his devotions at Adonis temple, he was determin'd to make a voyage into Parthia; for one of those Assassins which had bin destroy'd by Artabbanes's Courage, had confess'd as he expir'd, that the Prince of *Parthia* had hir'd them to that attempt. This (he continu'd) makes me confident, *Pacorus* esteems Altezeera guiltie, when he esteems me fit to be so punish'd; and believing hir so, she may have occasion to employ my sword, and Life, both which I will go and offer hir; the Gods too, seem to invite me to it, by not confining my residence about this Temple as they have done Artabbanes's, who I am

as much troubl'd to abandon, as at that which makes me believe my doing so necessary; but as soon as I have found whether my suspitions be rightly grounded, I will not fail to return hither, to be instructed in a Fate, I am nothing less concern'd in, than in my own. The Gods (reply'd Artabbanes) cannot but destine me some transcendent advantage by enjoyning my residence here, if they but intend thereby to recompence the Miserie of confining me from waiting on, & serving Artavasdes in his intended voyage; but I am so well verst in their inclinations for me, that if he will permit it, I will rather embrace the assured blessing of accompanying him, than out of some ambiguous hopes, decline so advantagious a certaintie. Artavasdes found this as Civill, as Callimmachus irreligious, and Artabbanes found by their returns, that these were both their beliefs. The generous Friend having absolutely declin'd the offer, and the generous Priest having induc'd him which made it, to acknowledge, he had bin in it as uncivill to the Gods, as the contrary to Artavasdes, they began to think on their intended journey next morning

ing to the Temple of Adonis, which, Callimachus said was not above Forty Furlongs from Hierapolis; and because the day was not a little wasted in the precedent sacrifices, and that some part of it must be employ'd in preparatives for the future ones, both he and Artavasdes conjur'd Artabbanes to enjoyn Symander (who all the while was present) to put a period to the relation he had begun. Artabbanes being satisfy'd, that in one performance he could oblige himselfe, and those he as much desir'd to doe the like unto; to effect both, retir'd to the entertainment of his thoughts, & left them to Symander's, who to obey their Cõmands, having first remember'd them, he was interrupted after Surena's success in the Castle of Eden, and that still he spoke the fair Partheniſſa's words to Artabbanes, thus prosecuted hir Adventures.

The ſequell of Parthniſſa's and Artabbanes's Story.

THe day (ſaid the Princeſſe) began but to expell the obſcurity of the Night, when Surena according to his promiſe, came into my Chamber, to let me know all things for our intended journey were ready; but he was ſo pale, and weak, that Zephalinda, Lindadory and I, began to conſider that ſtrange alteration, as the effect of a new Misfortune; but he aſſur'd us it only proceeded from ſome loſs of bloud in his late Combate; that he found himſelf better able to perform a journey than he ſeem'd to be; and that by rideing in a Charriot, he ſhould feel no inconveniency, but what proceeded from being in a leſs-fitting poſture to ſerve me. I muſt acknowledge he appear'd in ſo ſad a condition, that I not only thought it leſs dangerous for him to indure a ſiege, than a journey, but told him ſo; and though we joyntly, and preſſingly conjur'd him to reflect on his own ſafety, and that we would hazard ours by a reſidence with him, rather than ſo much indanger his; yet our Solicitations

tions were fruitleſs; for he proteſted 'twould be more hazarded by the danger of my cõtinuing in Eden, or by his not waiting on me out of it, and ſettling me in a ſecure reſidence, than any other way: His Chyrurgion too, aſſur'd us he might without any great hazard travell in a Charriot. This laſt operated more with us than all the reſt; for we knew the Laws of Surena's Civility oblig'd him to contemne all danger; but we knew thoſe of the Artiſt, aſmuch oblig'd him to preſerve his Patient from any; we therefore deſcended into the Court, where we found all things in a deſir'd Poſture, and ſome fifty Horſe for our Convoy. Zephalinda and Lindory rode in one Charriot, and Surena (by my reiterated deſires) & I, rid in another; there was a Third for our Women: but alas, we were not gone a furlong from the Caſtle, when ſome Scouts came in, and with frighted Looks, commanded the Charriot-Drivers to turn back, if they had a Minde to preſerve themſelves, or thoſe they drove. Surena at this Allarm, inquir'd the cauſe of it, which thoſe that brought it, told him, proceeded from 500. of the Kings Horſe, which were come

a round Gallop from Nineveh; had ſeiz'd on all the Boats were to ferry us over the Tygris; and were by their helpe tranſporting themſelves into the Iſland. Surena amaz'd at ſo fatall a Diſaſter, and as much, how what he had done could already come to Arſaces knowledge, told me; We muſt Madam return, unleſs you will rather indure the Siege of Orodes's Love, than that of his Force; he had hardly ſaid theſe words, when we perceiv'd a Cloud of duſt, which, ſome of our Convoy that were moſt advanc'd, came runing to tell us, was the Enemyes Troops; this made us retire haſtily to the Caſtle, into which we were ſcarcely enter'd, when Surena fell into a Swound, and his wounds appear'd ſo inflam'd, that a Chyrurgion of our Convoy, who firſt at my Cryes ran to his aſſiſtance, proteſted to me, our return was the happieſt accident could have arriv'd his Prince, for he could not have continu'd his journey, and his Life; we had him therefore brought with great care, and no leſs haſte to his Appartment, from whence we ſaw a Body of Horſe, which came a full Gallop near the Caſtle, where they drew up, and by waving

waving their bright ſwords, ſeem'd to invite thoſe in it to a Combate, which might change their colour. There was in Eden a young Gentleman called Arzimin, to whom Surena, as ſoon as he was reſtor'd to his ſences, committed the care of the Siege, 'till his own health would permit him to aſſume it. Four dayes were ſpent in preparations for defence, and the night of the laſt, there came into the Caſtle 500 Horſe, & as many Foot, who told us, that, more by Art, than by Force, they had paſt the Kings Armie, which next morning fac'd the Caſtle, and ſent a Herauld to Surena, who not being in a condition to receive his Meſſage, ſent Arzimin to do it, who brought his Prince word; That Arſaces had ſent purpoſely to know what provocation he had receiv'd, that could invite him to ſo precipitate & dangerous a deſigne; That though the higheſt Revenge would be but a proportionate Iuſtice for abuſing his Authority, and Favour, yet if he would ſubmit himſelf to the former, he would reſtore him to the latter. Surena turning his Eyes towards me, ſeem'd to implore the anſwer he was to make; but I told him,

I had referr'd all things, as well as my protection to him; he therefore commanded Arzimin to let the Herauld know, that by reason of an indisposition which render'd him uncapable of making any return to the King with his own hand, he was determin'd not to send any 'till he could so do it. This he did to protract the time, and not to thrust Arsaces on extreams, 'till Vixores (who Surena then told me was raising an Armie of his Partizans) came to his relief. The Herauld deliver'd the King the Message he receiv'd, which Arsaces consider'd rather as an Affront, than a respect, and immediately by a Trumpet sent to know where our Appartments were, that he might prohibit any shooting of Arrows at those parts of the Castle; which having learn'd, he began by approches to attempt thewinning of a place, which contain'd in it, the objects of his most predominant Passions, his Love & Revenge. Above a Moon was employ'd in bloudie assaults and defences, by which time Surena was so well recover'd of his old wounds, that he was in a condition to receive new ones, which before he did, by a Trumpet, and a

Gentle-

Gentleman, he ſent the King a Letter, which he firſt communicated to me, & which contain'd theſe words:

Surena, to his Soveraigne Arſaces.

IF I have bin ſo unfortunate, as ſeemingly to take up Arms againſt my King; yet I am ſo happie as to be ſatisfy'd they are really for him. Your reſolves (Sir) to make Parthenisſa yours, and hirs to decline a Crown of Empire, for one of Conſtancie, creates my performance, which I cannot call a cryme, becauſe 'tis to preſerve you from one. This only being the cauſe of my Arming, I eſteem'd it not fit to divulge it, but rather appear a Rebell, than manifeſt your Paſſion is one to you; when you can command it, you ſhall command both me, and thoſe with me; but 'till then, I muſt preſerve you, from what virtue ſhould, & thereby merit the honor of your favour, if I poſſeſs it not.

Arſaces detain'd this Meſſenger, 'till he had form'd a reply, which he was not a little trouble'd to doe, for if he continu'd his Paſſion, he muſt the War, and perhaps the deſpair of taking the cauſe of it; & if he ſeem'd

to decline his Paſſion, he muſt violate his engagement, or what it may be he valu'd more. Whilſt this Dilemma was debating, the Armie, and Garriſon were ſo too; for there was, during the Treatie, no ſuſpenſion of Arms, and the Arſacians ſtorm'd an outwork, from whence they were beaten with loſs and ſhame: Surena to let his Enemies know he was well, and could uſe his ſucceſs ſo, with the greateſt part of his Garriſon, and himſelf at the head of them, made ſo reſolute a charge upon three great Squadrons of Horſe & Foot, who were to juſtifie the aſſalliārs retreat, that he forc'd them all to a precipitate one, and doubtleſs had carry'd his Succeſs to a ſublimer degree, had not Orodes in perſon with 3000 ſelect Horſe, firſt put a ſuſpenſion, & then a period to his victorie. We ſaw all this from off the Caſtle, and that Surena did miracles in his perſon to regain the victorie, or it, but at length moſt of his Forces being cut in pieces, or taken Priſoners, he follow'd the fate of the latter, which he receiv'd from a Gentleman in black Armour. But we had hardly the leaſure to deplore ſo ſenſible a loſs, ſince he

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that impoſ'd it, did redreſs it too, by not only giving Surena his libertie again, but by ſecuring it, till he came to the Graffe of the Caſtle; Surena had but few wounds for ſo many dangers he had bin engag'd in; But of 1000 Horſe & Foot which which made the Sally, only two hunder'd return'd alive, and half of thoſe by their wounds continu'd not ſo ſix dayes. Our impatience to learn from whom both Surena and we had receiv'd ſo ſignall an obligation, made us go meet him in the entrance of the Caſtle, where he told us privatly, that it was from the Prince Ariobarzanes, who upon his knowledge of him, deſir'd no other ranſome for the reſtoring his freedome, than to grant him his Pardon, & procure him Zephalinda's for having depriv'd him of it. This Gallantry both the Brother and Siſter extol'd, in terms as great as it ſelf, & the latter perhaps eſteem'd hir neceſſitated ingratitude to him, as high a misfortune, as Artabbanes's was to hir. The great loſs we ſuſtain'd by his Sally, reduc'd us to a condition ſo deplorable, that Surena himſelfe began to apprehend it, and to confeſs his beſt

conſolation was, he ſhould loſe his Life in a Service, in which he had vow'd to ſpend it; and thereby if he could not prevent my misfortunes, yet he ſhould not live to ſee them. The morning which ſucceeded this ſad day, there came a Gentleman from the Camp attended by a Trumpetter, who telling the Guards he was employ'd from the King to their Prince, was admitted, and receiv'd by him in the Court, where to conceal our deficiency, all the Garriſon but the Centries on the Line were aſſembl'd. The expreſs preſented from Orodes, a Letter to Surena, which without opening he immediatly came and preſented me in my Chamber, where Lindadory and Zephalinda were, to learn the effect of it; having there unſeal'd it, we found 'twas all written with Arſaces's own hand, and contain'd theſe words:

Arſaces King of Parthia,
To Surena.

THough the condition the Gods have reduced you to, might invite me by reſentment, as well as juſtice, to employ my Power, rather than my Mercy; yet becauſe you attribute your cryme to

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a ſervice to Partheniſſa, I ſhall eſteem it one to me, and not only pardon your having given hir ſo bad a character of my Paſſion, as what you have acted muſt make hir aſſume, but to diveſt hir of Fear, and you of excuſe, I doe hereby engage my ſelfe by all thoſe obligations I eſteem moſt ſacred, I will be ſo far from forcing hir to be my Queen, that I will not ſolicit it, and I would even give hir leave to ſeek a Sanctuary under ſome other King, did I not know that would but too-much cloud the Government of hir own, which could not but be abhorr'd, when ſo much Beautie & virtue, ſhould be neceſsitated to implore a forraign Protection.

This Letter gave me joyes which were uncapable of acceſſion, but by both your returns; I told Surena, that the cauſe of the War being taken away, the effects ought to ceaſe; that doubtleſs Arſaces was reall in his promiſes, ſince he had (when they were freely made) aſmuch the power to violate them, as he could have when I was in his; that probably my coldneſs had extinguiſh'd his Flãe, which though it were no common operation in Love, yet it was (as Surena experimentally

ally knew) a poſſible one, & therefore ſince Arſaces taking the Caſtle, which he had as much the power as the will to doe, might inſpire him with intentions, our ſubmiſſion, and reliance on him would ſuppreſs, I eſteem'd it the beſt courſe to accept of what we could indeed no longer decline. Surena was about to have reply'd, when one of his Servants advertis'd him, that the Gentleman employ'd by the King, had a Meſſage to deliver him, which he deſir'd might be without witneſſes. I obſerv'd him a little ſurpriz'd at my motion, and it may be he was glad to cloud his disorder by this oppertunity, which he begg'd me to permit him to accept, ſince it was not improbable, but it might be much conducive to the forming our reſolutions. I know not whether he thought the making his requeſt was ſufficient towards the granting, but he had no ſooner deſir'd my permiſſion than he took it, and whilſt he was entertaining the *Kings* expreſs, the fair Zephalinda was entertaining me with ſome fears ſhe but then had aſſum'd, which were; That I had avoyded being a Prey to one of my Lovers, but to be one to another.

ther. This free declaratiõ made me conclude ſhe had but too-pregnant evincements for the making it, & that it was hir knowledge, not hir ſuſpition, which gave me one of hir Brother. I acquainted hir with this belief, with as much clearneſs as ſhe had me with hirs; but when ſhe proteſted to me hir apprehenſions had only their being from the minute of Surena's disorders, and at the overture which had created them, I began to hope hir affection for me, made hir ſuſpect hir Brother's having too-much, which the better to determine, we joyntly reſolv'd to preſs the accepting the Kings offer. Surena by his return, gave me leave to execute what we had reſolv'd, which after I had, by the preſſing'ſt reaſons I could diſcloſe, he told me: The juſt Gods, Madam, who know how unfit it is for you to put your ſelf into the hands of one, who prefers his Luſt, before his Faith, have ſent me an Intelligence, which may ſo far abſolve their Providence, that if that misfortune muſt be yours, it ſhall be your fault and not theirs. For the Gentleman ſent by the King, is employ'd by the generous Ariobarzanes, who knowing, all

Intelligence both by land, and water, is debarr'd me, lets me know, that Arzimin, who I thought in the last Sally had lost his life, has lost but his Libertie, and that Vixores is hastily raising an Armie of 30000 Horse, & as many Foot, for my relief; so that, Madam, you have but to assume a few dayes patience, and you may derive that reall securitie from my sword, which will prove but an imaginarie one, in Arsaces protestations. The Gods forbid (I reply'd much more confirm'd in my Fears, by this answer) that so many thousand Lives should be sacrific'd as victims for the suppression of my doubts, but allow they were of so criminall a qualitie, as that nothing but so much bloud could wash them away, yet what advantage could we propound unto our selves by a Battell, which we are not more certain of without one; for you must either resolve to expel Arsaces out of his Throne, and Empire, or at length you must trust him, and that too, when the resentments of his losses, and our opposition, may give him a rise, and provocation, to evince the justice of our Fears, by his acting them; which a Confidence in him may as much

much deter him from, as his very oathes; ſo that ſince of neceſſitie we muſt to prevent his Crime, act a greater, or put our ſelves into his Mercie, when it may be the world may eſteem his conferring it, (by our provocatiõ) an injuſtice, I do not only aprove of embracing his offer, but conjure you we may do it; and this I deſire the more preſſingly, becauſe that having a power to oppoſe his, our ſubmiſſion may appear our election, not our conſtraint, and thereby have two obligations on him; that of Religion; and that of Truſt; which latter will confine him, if he conſiders his honor, and the former if he conſiders the Gods. Are you then, Madam (he reply'd) ſo little verſt in the maxims of Kings, as to think your ſelf ſecure under him, when you have demonſtrated you have a Power of being ſo without, or againſt him; by ſhewing that Truth, and then diveſting your ſelf of it? we do not only ſhew him he is not abſolute, but provoke, and which is worſe, enable him to become ſo: the folly of yielding to an offended Prince, is greater than the Sin which made him ſo; and if we muſt at length ſubmit, 'tis better doing it

when our neceſſitie is the motive; for the extending his Mercie then, is a greater, as well as ſafer virtue: Do not Madam (I beſeech you) tempt Arſaces's honeſtie, by prejudicing his Power, and Love; There is no neceſſitie of ending the War by either expelling him his Throne, or ſubmitting to his Mercie, a ſucceſsfull Battell may procure us ſuch conditions, as it ſhall not be in his Power to infringe them, or when he ſees his Paſſion or Empire muſt ceaſe, he will relinquiſh the former; which were it founded on virtue, would be as permanent as the reward of it, but being on luſt, and meeting ſuch dangers, and obſtructions, it will as ſoon expire, as would the pleaſures of it. I confeſs this diſcourſe made me tremble, and I could not abſtain from replying: Certainly Surena, there are Paſſions of another qualitie than you have now given me a character of, or elſe you have given me an ill one of yours, or of your ſelf; for if thoſe which are built on virtue never expire, I muſt conclude, yours had not that foundation, or elſe is ſtill exiſtent.

Surena found himſelf as much ſurpriz'd at my

my inference, as I was at what gave me the riſe to make it; but after a ſhort ſilence he told me; There is (Madam) no general Rule but has ſome exception, and 'tis I only make it in this; Neither, Madam, ſhould I tell you an untruth, if I aſſur'd you, my love for you, makes me not love you; I eſteem'd it but an ill effect & character of my Flame, to oppoſe or injure yours, & ſince the Gods have made the perſeverance in my *Paſſion* as great a misfortune, as your not rewarding it; I tranſplanted that permanency the Gods had given me for a virtuous affection, on a virtuous Friendſhip, and they will not ſo much leſſen their obligation in this change, as to evidence it no miracle; which it would neither prove, nor appear, did they produce in Arſaces a reſembling operatiõ: I told him, that to repeat was not to annihillate a Miracle; That I could not eſteem a production of reaſon, to be one; or if there had bin one in his affection, it was in that he had aſſum'd, and not declin'd it; ſince he could not be more powerfully invited to relinquiſh his addreſſes from the unworthineſs of their obj ct, than from hir pre ingaged Love; which

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ſhe reſolv'd as eternally to cheriſh, as his Friendſhip, that had ſo generouſly contributed thereunto. I further told him, that ſince the extinction of his Flame, evinc'd a poſſibility of Orodes doing the like, and that the hazard in truſting his vowes could not be greater than that of a Battel, I conjur'd him, if 'twere upon my ſcore, and not his own that he drew his Sword, that he would ſheath it again, and not ſo far engage himſelf in hazards, as to finde both our deſtructions in what he intended as an argument of a Friendſhip, I could not be more deſirous, than ſatisfy'd of. I began my requeſt again (Partheniſſa continu'd) to retrench all diſcourſe of his Paſſion, which like a Relique, might loſe its reſpect by becoming cõmon. To this Surena reply'd, by what I have done Madam, I know what will be done unto me, & that Orodes when ever he has the Power, will make uſe of it, to render me a ſacrifice for the fair Partheniſſa. This being both my faith, and my ambition (ſo it may be in a handſomer way, than on a Scaffold) permit me to ſtand upon my defence, if that ſucceeds, you may command your own deſires,

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and leſt it ſhould not, let me publiſh, I did but conceal, not ſuppreſs my Paſſion, and doe you aſſure the King 'tis your conſtraint, not your inclination detains you here; and that you will accept of his offer, as ſoon as I permit you. This (Madam) will ſecure you againſt all misfortunes, for Arſaces cannot decline his Conceſſions at the very laſt, becauſe your not recieving them at firſt was your misfortune, not your fault. All the while Surena ſpoke, I bluſht, and ſomtimes trembl'd, in apprehenſion what he ſaid, was not his motion, but his reſolve; but not to let him know my fears by my diſorders, I told him: The generous Surena has already ſo much oblig'd me, that if he is capable of doing it more, it muſt be by preſerving, not hazarding himſelf; The latter he will but too-abudantly doe, by performing what he propounds; ſince Orodes will be a more dangerous Enemy on the ſcore of Love, than Power; and will be too-ſuſpitious we will delude him, not to conclude we doe it, in ſo palpable a Fiction. It is not impoſſible too, but ſuch a proceeding may leſſen the heat & affections of your own Partizans, who

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though they take up Armes to defend me from being the Kings *Priſoner*, will hardly employ them, to continue me yours, which they muſt believe, or Arſaces cannot long; from whoſe power you ſhall not need create any apprehenſions, ſince before you put your ſelf into it, I will extort as much for your ſecurity, as I receive for my own. In brief (ſaid *Partheniſſa*) my requeſts, or my reaſons were ſo moving, that Surena aſſur'd me, if at the end of four & Twenty Hours, his arguments could not appear convinceing ones to me, mine ſhould prove ſo to him; and then he withdrew himſelf, to let the Kings Expreſs know, that then he might return for his poſitive anſwer, whom (he ſaid) he would not ſo long detaine in the Caſtle, leſt it might look rather like an impriſonment, than an attendance. I will paſs by the joys we all three aſſum'd at Surena's engagement, and thoſe reaſons we deduced for & againſt the accepting Arſaces Conceſſions, ſince thoſe for the former, were ſo many, that they had exhauſted all from the latter. I paſt that after-noon, and the Night, in as much reſt, as the thoughts of ſuppreſſing ſo dan-

dangerous a War, and Lover, could permit; and the next day I was hardly dreſt, when I heard a great Noyſe in the Caſtle, and obſerv'd moſt of the Souldiers running to the Battlements of it: The two Princeſſes, and I did the like, where, when we were come, we might perceive all thoſe Plains towards the Sun-riſing cover'd with Troops. we concluded 'twas Vixores's Armie, becauſe we ſaw the Kings under their Enſignes in their Camp. This made me apprehend Surena had taken thoſe 24 hours of delay, to put affairs beyond a capabillitie of reconciliation; and that he had diſpatch'd the Kings Expreſs, but to accellerate Vixores's march: As ſoon as I had told Lindadory, and Zephalinda my fears, they became theirs; and becauſe by the help of a perſpective Glaſs, we perceiv'd a Herauld go from the Kings Armie, to the other, and that in all pobabilitie he was employ'd to let Vixores know, how that Arſaces expected a return from the Caſtle, which might put a period to all diſputes, 'till which were come, he would begin none, we determin'd in a conjuncture of time ſo preſſing, to be ſo with Surena for his poſſi-

tive resolve; since a longer protraction, might engage us in those miseries, I was so solicitous to avoid. Surena's coming to us, seem'd to contribute to so necessary, and just an intention; 'twas therefore I immediately acquainted him, that the longer I reflected on my Arguments for relying on Arsaces's vowes, the more pregnant I still found them; that the resolution I had then assum'd, would be so far from receiving a change by the effluction of a few minutes, that it would a confirmation; that before the 24 hours were expired, such misfortunes might arrive, as we might deplore all those of our Lives; and therefore 'twas, I conjur'd him by that Friendship he had for me, & by the just value I plac'd upon it, to permit me to go out of Eden, and that if he could not silence his suspitions, with what I did Mine, that at least I might receive the satisfaction, of not being the Authoress of shedding so much Blood, and of involving my Countrey in a Civill War. Surena having commanded all the Souldiers to their Posts, prostrating himself at my Feet, told me, 'Tis now Madam, no longer time to dissemble a Passion which I

clouded,

clouded, but could not extinguish, I had too unresistable a Ryval in Arsaces, to continue, and declare my self his; I was necessitated therefore by art, to supply the defects of power; neither did I, Madam, delude, but serve you in this disguise; I believe you will finde I doe so too, in this discoverie; since without it, you must have put your self in the hands of one, who would be satisfy'd with nothing but possessing you; whereas you are now in ones, that if he cannot from a perfect Passion enjoy that blessing himself, he will never pretend higher, than to keep all others from it. I go now, Madam, to take from Arsaces as absolutely the power of making you his Queen, as the just aversion you have contracted for him, has alreadie taken away all means of becoming so, but that; & I hope before the Sun sets, to evince, by the sacrificing of so many Thousand Lives for your preservation, how pretious 'tis unto me. Surena had no sooner done speaking, than he rose up; and having saluted me, went haftily away: I had neither the designe, nor the power to stay him, the first proceeded from my aversion from seeing, and the

latter from my disorders of having heard him, which were so transcendent, that the consolations of Lindadory, and Zephalinda, were so far from silencing my trouble, that they created it, by believing Mine was capable of being suppreſt. Oh Gods! what did I not utter againſt so black an infidelitie? & how I quarrell'd with my self, for having truſted my protection to him, who made me need any: but whilſt I was in the higheſt resentments those reflections inſpir'd me with, they were interrupted by many ſhouts, and eryes; and turning about to learn from whence they proceeded, I perceiv'd it was from a great Bodie of Vixores's Army, which were fallen upon one of the Kings Guards, that was moſt advanc'd towards the Caſtle, which after a bloudie diſpute, they beat up, & thereby gave Surena the libertie of joyning with him, which he omitted not, for we ſaw him immediately row over the Tygris, and recover his Armie: ſoon after the Kings was drawn out of their Camp, which we learn'd, proceeded from Surena's having aſſur'd him in a letter, of all that he had me, which ſo fill'd Arſaces

with

with fury, that finding he could not end the War by continuing the Siege, he reſolv'd to attempt it by a Battell; and becauſe his rage was of a quality that could not admit of delay, and there being light enough left for ſo bloudy a diciſion, they inſtantly began it, but it ended not 'till the day did, which prov'd a glorious one to Arſaces, whoſe Victory was witneſs'd by the death of 40000 of his Rebells; which Number yet had bin much increaſt, if the obſcurity had not hinder'd it. The two Brothers, better follow'd in the Flight, than in the Charge, took ſeverall wayes; Vixores to raiſe a new Army, & bring their *Fates* to another experiment; and Surena, who had ſecur'd that Poſt upon the Tygris which his Army had recover'd before the Battell, made it the place of rallyment, where finding too-many for the Siege, and too few for the Field, he ſelected 2000, and diſmiſt the reſt; who by ſeverall wayes found ſeverall Fortunes, ſome ſcaping, ſome loſeing their liberties, & others their Lives. Surena employ'd all that night to ferry over his Men into Eden, which he did, though with the loſs of a Fourth part of them, who

being left to justify their Post, were kill'd in it, by a successfull assault of the Kings, so that all the advantage Surena deriv'd from the Battell, was to get a Garrison to maintain a Siege. The day after this troublesome one to him, he made it a resembling one to me, by giving me a visit: but as soon as he came into my Chamber, without permitting him to speak, I told him; Traytor, with what Face canst thou present thy self before me? when thy actions, & the Gods by thy defeat, have bestow'd on thee that Name? 'tis doubtless to increase thy Crymes, by the continuing of my Punishment, which the seeing thee, but too-abundantly does; Madam (said Surena) I doe now no longer wonder the Gods deny'd me success, when you deny'd me your Prayers for it; 'twas the want of them gave our Enemy the Victory, which it may be, if he had intirely the Power, he would employ it, to act worse designes, than you can esteem me capable of thinking; but I have so many fresh resourses of Men, that before you fall into Arsaces hands, he must leave himself as few Subjects, as now he besieges; and it may be rather than cause the ruine of your Countrey,

Country, you will hinder Mine. Yes Madam, you will see Armies again in the Field, which shall invalidate your Prayers; and the Gods who know how much fitter 'tis to give you your security, than your revenge, will confer the victory on him, who will less offensively employ it. If the Gods (I reply'd) should take so strange a Course for the punishment of Orodes Sins, as to let one of his Vassalls act it; yet the end to which thou believ'st that Victory conducive, shall be deny'd thee; I have resolutions which no materiall power can so much as reach, much less conquer, and if I were not confin'd to love Artabbanes as his reward, I would doe it as thy punishment. Certainly Madam, (Surena coldly reply'd) if you love Artabbanes still, you sufficiently evince, you are confin'd to it; his jealousie else had made you deny him afterwards that honor; and it cannot be but Fate, which makes you have a Passion for one who suspected your virtue, and an aversion for him who ador'd it, though it has prov'd as cruell to the Latter, as kind to the Former.

Here (said Symander) my Prince who had

had hitherto liſten'd with a wonderfull ſilence, was neceſſitated to break it, by telling his Princeſs; I hope Madam, you gave him no other reply, than what is the only, and the true one; which is, that 'twas not my jealouſie, but my reaſon made me apprehend the fair Partheniſſa was too-great a Bleſſing ever to become Artabbanes's. Partheniſſa bluſht a little to have ſpoke what had neceſſitated Artabbanes to interrupt hir Story, & to make ſo flatering a juſtification; 'twas therefore ſhe hinder'd the continuance of it, by telling him; I had but too-much truth to alleadge in your vindication, to make uſe of a return, which had nothing of that virtue in it; wherefore the anſwer I gave him, was; It would rather appear an effect of Fate, did I decline a Paſſion for Artabbanes, to confer it on one, whoſe manifeſted Treachery, ſo Artificially made him doubt mine, that the Offence of doing ſo, could not be ſo great, as the impoſſibility of avoyding it. Thou canſt not therefore mention Artabbanes's ſeeming cryme, but thou muſt publiſh thy reall one; But to take from thee all freſh occaſions to injure the Gods, as well as me, I

proteſt

proteſt by them, that if their power know any limitation, 'tis in the impoſſibilitie of making me receive thy Paſſion, or ſo much as liſten to thy addreſſes with Patience. There is, Madam, (he reply'd) nothing impoſſible but to him that believes it; 'tis only the Faith of apprehenſion, not reaſon; or if there be impoſſibilities, my declining the ambition of poſſeſſing you, or permitting any other the doing it, are the only ones.

He ſpake ſomething elſe, though I did not hear it, for I withdrew, and lock'd my ſelf up in my Cabbinet, which for ſix Moons was my only ſanctuary from ſuch importunate viſits; But his generous Siſter aſſum'd at his change ſo exorbitant a grief, that it even brought an acceſſion to mine; the fair Lindadory by hirs did the like; and though I both conjur'd them to leſſen the cauſe of their Tears, by removing themſelves from the ſubject of them, yet they would never conſent to my requeſt, neither had they, would Surena have permitted it, who one day let me know ſo much, when I motion'd their removall to him, and who transferr'd

his denyall upon the indecencie of wanting ſome of my own Sex to be near me. Zephalinda a thouſand times fruitleſsly eſſay'd to let Ariobarzanes know the truth of our condition, which ſhe ſuſpected hir brother had kept from his knowledge, and thereby made that ſeem an effect of his Art, which was one of his Treachery: This ſhe was the more intent upon, knowing that every opportunitie Ariobarzanes (who was Lieutenant Generall to Arſaces, and condemn'd his deſires on me, which by the infuſions of Surena, he conſider'd thorough a falſe optick) ſent him conſtant Intelligence, under pretence of concluding an exchange of Priſoners, mutually made ſo by fortunate, and unſucceſsfull Sallyes, whoſe retail I decline telling you, ſince 'tis ſufficient you know they were frequent, and bloudie. I believe you are confident, that I was ſo of Surena's not attempting againſt my honor, ſince I ſolicited the removall of thoſe, whoſe preſence might have reſtrain'd any deſires of ſo criminall a quality; and truly I muſt doe him that juſtice, as to acknowledge he had nothing of offenſive in his Love, but his Love,

which

which was as civill, as unſucceſsfull.

Though the violence of the Winter were great, yet it leſſen'd not that of the Siege, which was ſo active, as it left no time to feel the rigour of the Seaſon. But the Spring which brought weather fit to continue the War, brought Surena newes of his impoſſibilitie of doing it, for by the return of a Priſoner (purpoſely made ſo) for that end, he receiv'd from Ariobarzanes the certaintie of Vixores's repeated defeat, which was given him by the Prince Phraates, expreſly ſent by his Father to interrupt his leavies, or deſtroy them, which latter he effected, though much of the Glory, and more of the danger, fell to the young Phraataces, illegittimate Son to Phraates, not then above 16 years of Age, whoſe Mother by hir excellent Beautie had bin Concubine to Cæſar, & who by him had bin preſented to Phraates, as an other was at the ſame time of reſembling Beautie, and profeſſion to Pacorus: But he return'd hir again to Cæſar, as a fitter preſent for his reſtitution, than acceptance. Surena at this fatall Intelligence, found as ſmall hopes to preſerve me from his King, as to obtain me

for himself, & I began to assume some, that what he had deny'd to me, he must grant to his necessitie. But Vixores, though he had lost the possibilitie of raising the Siege, yet he had not of enabling his *Brother* to continue it, which to effect, with the reliques of his broke Army, of which he had lost 22000, he advanc'd by long *Marches*, and unfrequented wayes, with 2000 Foot, which he had mounted, and by his admirable celeritie & silence, came so unexpectedly to the *Banks* of Tygris, that the Kings Eyes gave him the first intelligence of his being there, which was no sooner receiv'd, than all the Boats upon the River were drawn to one place, for the ferrying over some Horse to cut off this relief: Surena to facilitate the entry of it, made a furious Sally, and Vixores, the better to palliate his fiction, made a brisk one against the Arsacians, with Two thousand Horse, with which he had convey'd the Two thousand mounted Foot, who all this while having quit their Horses, lay conceal'd in a Grove two Furlongs above Arsaces's Guard, which was next to the Castle, from whence during the Allarm, they sent over some

excellent

excellent ſwimmers, who faſtening Ropes on that ſide the River, by Ten Flat-bottom'd Boats, which as many Dromedaries had brought, and which for the conveniency of carriage, were made of Wicker, cover'd with Hides, without rowing, or driving down the ſtream, in one hour, they had tranſported over all the Souldiers; but as they were beginning to doe the like to the *Proviſions*, which Surena wanted more than the *Men*, ſome of the Kings Horſe, who by a Priſoner taken from the Convoy had gain'd intelligence of this relief, came, and by a furious charge render'd themſelves Maſters of the moſt neceſſary part of it. The Souldiers who were in the Iſland, ſeeing the loſs of their victualls, and knowing it irrecoverable, leſt a longer delay might render the Caſtle ſo too, by a haſty march under the Banks of the Tygris, which by a continu'd froſt had left a large ſtrand, and by the obſcurity of the Night (which then had for above two hours cover'd the Heavens) they ſafely arriv'd in Eden; but Surena's joy at it immediatly vaniſht, for by the loſs of his Proviſions, he found his Brother had ſent

an increaſe, rather than a relief of his wants, who concluding he had given time enough for the entry of the ſupply, by degrees began to diminiſh the violence of the Combat, which finally, an hour after, abſolutly ceaſt. Vixores in this performance ſhew'd himſelf ſo much a Souldier, that none which was ſo, could not but conclude his precedent defeats proceeded not from his not being one. That Night by a long March, he put himſelf out of the neceſſity of making a ſecond, for he had ſo far out-gone thoſe Troops which follow'd him, that by eaſie journeys he reacht again the Province of Hircania, which though Phraates had much deſtroy'd, yet Vixores deſpair'd not, but from thoſe Warlike People, and that provocation, to bring again a third Army into the Field, which might render him Maſter of it. Surena was cõſtrain'd by his little victuals, & many Souldiers, to make frequent, & furious Sallyes, where to loſe of his own Men, or to kill of the Kings, were equall advantages. One Evening, as the two Princeſſes, and I, were walking on the Battlements of the Caſtle, we heard a noyſe in the Court, which we learn'd pro-

proceeded from the arrivall of Arzimin, who having deceiv'd, or corrupted his Guards, had then Fled from the Camp, & recover'd the Caſtle. Surena aſſum'd a viſible joy at the eſcape, & return of ſo conſiderable a Friend. Three or four Dayes ſucceſſively after, I fancy'd Arzimin by his looks had ſome deſires to ſpeak with me, but apprehending he had taken them up upon Surena's ſcore (whom I never, after our firſt diſcourſe, permitted to make me a ſecond) I declin'd all oportunities of facilitating his deſign; but at length, having acquainted the Princeſſes with my belief, and ſuſpitions, they were joyntly of opinion, that I ſhould no longer defer giving Arzimin an opportunity I had hitherto deny'd him, ſince if he had any thing to act for me (which his ſtrange eſcape from the Camp render'd no irrationall belief) by re-trenching all diſcourſe with me, I did too, all poſſibility of ſerving me; & if what he had to deliver were on Surena's accompt, I ought ſpeedily to give him one Audience, to have a juſt ground for denying him for ever another. Their opiniõ was my reſolution, which immediatly after

I had assum'd, I had the opportunity to put it in practice, for the same day, as we went to take the Ayre in the Gardens of the Castle, which because we frequently did, Arsaces had given an obey'd Command, that no Arrowes, or Darts should be shot or flung that way; Arzimin, who waited for me at the Door, came, and presented me his hand to lead me down, which I accepted, & which I had no sooner done, than he told me softly; I have something Madam of concernment to inform you of, but I must humbly beg it may be without witnesses; I told him, in the same tone, that I would give the opportunity he desir'd, as soon as we were in the Gardens, whither being come, we insensibly lost the two Princesses, and those that follow'd us; which Arzimin being convinc'd of by looking diligently every way, he flung himself upon his Knees, and presented me a little Note, which I open'd and found, was all of Arsaces hand, and only contain'd these words: *Madam, I beseech you believe all he shall tell you, and be satisfy'd of his Fidelity, on my engagement for it.* After I had read these few words, and assur'd him they had all

all that efficacie both the King, & he could expect, I made him riſe, leſt being ſurpriz'd in that Poſture, it might raiſe a ſuſpition, which continuing our walk, would prevent; when he was up, he told me; I believe, *Madam*, you are not ignorant I was dangerouſly hurt, and taken Priſoner in that unſucceſsfull Battell Surena fought againſt his King; and that I might not have ſo noble a fate as that of dying by my wounds, they were diligently cur'd, and then my ſentence was, that that Life I had employ'd againſt my *Prince*, I ſhould loſe upon a Scaffold; whither when I was brought, & expected the fatall ſtroak, I receiv'd a Pardon: Arſaces making a diſtinction between thoſe which fought againſt him, and thoſe which fought for Surena, of which latter quallitie he was aſſur'd I was, from the Prince Ariobarzanes. *This* grace which I as little expected as deſerv'd, produc'd ſo juſt an effect in me, that I determin'd to employ my Life for him, that had given it me; in purſuance whereof I obtain'd a private Audience from the King, without ſo much as the knowledge of Ariobarzanes,

who I knew, too-much favour'd Surena's designes, to be trusted with mine. There 'twas, Madam, I told the *King* a Truth, of which I believe you are yet ignorant, which is; That Surena having long form'd a designe of carrying you away into Media, and of living there under the protection of Merinzor, (of which you may be partly convinc'd, by his having declar'd himself to you to be, what he never yet but was) finding by those unexpected wounds he receiv'd, when he made your Guards your Martyrs, that he was unable to flie with you thither, and as unable to trust you there without him; the better to delude your belief, he caus'd one of his Chyrurgions to tell you, and the two Princesses, he was in a condition to perform the journey, when he had not the power to do it; and which to prevent, he caus'd 500 Horse, he had covertly drawn together, to be his, and your Convoy into Media, to appear as so many of the *Kings*, and thereby made you return hither, as if it had bin by misfortune, not designe; and if you remember Madam, a Chyrurgion of the Convoy, who knew nothing of his Prince's intenti-

ons,

ons, told you when he fell into his fainting, that he could not continue his journey, and his Life. I remember'd that paſſage (ſaid Partheniſſa) very well, and from thence concluded Arzimin told me a Truth, I had but too-many pregnant Teſtimonies no longer to doubt. Orodes, Madam, (continu'd Arzimin) was as much ſurpriz'd at this intelligence, as I perceive you are; and thoſe Troops which were your ſeeming beſiegers, 'till thoſe of Arſaces were really ſo, then became your defenders; and when Orodes ſent you an aſſurance of attempting nothing againſt the Laws of Honor, in obtaining that of your Affection, Ariobarzanes (as you know) ſent Surena word, that Vixores with a numerous Armie was readie ſpeedily to Attempt his Relief: 'Twas then, Madam, to avoid the ſpilling of ſo much bloud, and of not demonſtrating any diffidence in the Kings ſo ſolemne engagements, that you preſt Surena to permit you to rely on them, who finding your deſire was your reſolution, begg'd you to conſider of his Arguments for 24 hours, and then he would obey your election. He did this only that in the mean

time he might engage both Armies, that if the victorie inclin'd to his side, he might keep you in his Power as an effect of his Friendship, not his Love; and if it inclin'd to the Kings, he might ascribe the Battell, by his being so strictly besieg'd, to the impossibilitie of his preventing it, and then by accepting the Kings offer, reserve the discloſing his Passion to a more promiſſing opportunitie. This, Madam, was the Cause, that under a pretence of not detaining the Kings Messenger so long, he immediately dispatch'd him to Ariobarzanes, whom he pressingly desir'd to let Vixores know, that if within 24 hours he brought not their Fates to a decision, no misfortune could be greater than that delay. Ariobarzanes did this to serve Surena, who has promis'd him his Sister, and to end a War, which would as long as it continu'd, deny him the felicitie of seeing Zephalinda. This designe had doubtless succeeded, if the Gods (who cannot more convincingly manifest themselves to be what they are, than by punishing infidelitie) had not necessitated Surena to disclose so criminall a fallacie: for though

Vixores

Vixores with all his Armie came early enough, and by a Thouſand provocations ſolicited the King to a Battell before the 24 hours were effluxt, yet Arſaces, though equall in forces, would not accept it, hoping by the return then promiſt, without Bloud to end the difference: Surena by this delay concluded of the cauſe of it, and thereby obſerving he could not any longer cloud himſelf, and that ſo powerfull an Army might juſtify his Cryme, boldly confeſt it to you, & then went to puniſh in his King, what he practic'd in himſelf; but he ſoon found in his defeat, how the Gods diſavow'd his Quarrell, which (ſaid Arzimin) I am now convinc'd of, and conſequently will no longer defend.' Tis therefore (Madam) as an expiation for having done it ſo much already, that I have engag'd my ſelf to Arſaces to deliver you out of this Captivity, or to loſe my Life in attempting it; & as one of your Protectors become your Keeper, ſo to make one of your Keepers, become your Deliverer; The two Princeſſes if they know of your eſcape, muſt not accõpany you in it, neither is it neceſſary, for being Priſoners but up-

on your Accompt, your liberty will reſtore them to theirs; I found this rationall, but not kind, and therefore determin'd, if 'twere not their deſire, as well as opinion, I would repay them the obligation of continuing a Priſoner with them, as they had with me; but this I told not Arzimin, who thus proſecuted his diſcourſe: To morrow Night (Madam) I have the Guard, and I have order'd it ſo, that thoſe which compoſe it are my Creatures, eſpecially ſuch as are of the water-gate where the Gally which belõgs to the Caſtle is at Anchor; In hir, Madam, I deſigne to carry you away, which Arſaces approves; and becauſe I ſuſpected Surena has ſo many Partizans and Spies in the Army, that if the King ſhould give orders to any of thoſe Guards upon the River, to receive the Gally which ſhould come out of the Caſtle as Friends, it would inevitably come by the multitude of Surena's, to his knowledge. I have perſwaded Arſaces under the pretence of an intelligence, to draw all the Boats on the River to the upper end of the Iſland, ſo that none of the Guards being able to follow us, we need not truſt their Faiths with ſo dan-

dangerous a ſecret. And the Tygris is of ſuch a breadth, that in the obſcurity of the Night, keeping under the Iſland-ſhoar, they can hardly diſcover us, or if they doe, not reach us with their Arrows; I am neceſſitated too, to let the Gally drive down the ſtream under the Banks of the River, leſt croſſing over it, ſome of our owne Centries on the Towers, might diſcover, and offend us; for they will know by the ſmallneſs of our Numbers, and by Surena's not ſeeing, or acting in our attempt, that it is not a Sally, but a flight. The *King*, *Madam*, will expect you at a little Village ſome Twenty Furlongs below the Caſtle, and to ſecure you from any fears, that you doe but avoyd one Impriſonment, to fall into another, he has commanded me to proteſt in his behalf, by all the tutelary Gods of his Empire, and by what ever elſe he holds in higeſt veneration, he has baniſht all thoſe Thoughts from him, which have ſo long baniſht you, and to take from himſelf the power of a relapſe, if ever he ſhould have the will, he has already given order for the revocatiõ of Artabbanes exilement, & to repair his having ſent him into

into it, he will with the reſtoring him to his Country, reſtore him too, to his Princeſs. Arzimin had more particularly acquainted me with the reſidue of what he was to deliver, had not he perceiv'd (a far off) Surena coming into the Garden, which made him deſire me to haſten my joyning with the Company, which whilſt we were doing, he told me, that the Night appointed, four hours after the cloſe of the Evening, he would not fail to come to my Chamber with my diſguize, and to have all things ſo exactly prepar'd, that it muſt be *Fate*, and not chance if his deſigne ſucceeded not. I had hardly aſſur'd him there ſhould be no omiſſion on my Part, but we had recover'd the Company, & ſuddenly after Surena appear'd in the ſame walk we were in, which made me quit it, and retire to my Appartment, where having ſhut our ſelves up, I told Lyndadory, and Zephalinda, all that Arzimin had me; To be brief, thoſe two admirable Women, for all my reitterated *Prayers*, would not be ſharers in my eſcape, leſt they might prejudice it, and if I condiſcended to their commands of going away alone, it was purely

purely from a Confidence, that as ſoon as I was out of the Caſtle, Surena would yield it, and conſequently the *Princeſſes* would be reſtor'd to a liberty by me, which they would not accept of with me; Zephalinda too, by not going with me, could leave hir Brother nothing but ſuſpitions that ſhe knew of my Flight; and Lindadory was ſo apprehenſive, that hir accompanying me in it, might convince Surena, 'twas the craft, and not the ignorance of his Siſter detain'd hir, and ſo pleaſ'd with a recluſeneſs, which both your abſences made hir cheriſh, that upon thoſe ſcores as well as the former, ſhe determin'd to remain with the fair Zephalinda, who conjur'd me I would employ that *Power* I had with Arſaces, to procure a Pardon for hir Brother, who had no other Title to my *Mercie*, than that he deſerv'd it not: I aſſur'd hir, that what ſhould now be my obedience, had bin my deſigne, and that one ſo near in bloud to Zephalinda, could not but be ſo, in my care. At length, the ſo-impatiéted night and hour came, and with it Arzimin, who brought me one of his Pages Clothes, which he ſaid was neceſſary for me to wear, & that

I ſhould do it no longer than 'till I were out of the Caſtle; I joyfully put on that Liverie of Freedom, and having a thouſand times embrac'd the Princeſſes, I took my finall leave, and only with Arzimin, whom I follow'd as his ſervant, came to the Guard of the Water-Gate, where I found the Souldiers ſleeping on the Ground, & in ſo wretched a way, that I have never ſince eſteem'd it courage, but judgement, to caſt themſelves upon whatſoever hazard may finiſh ſuch miſerable Lives. Arzimin immediately put me into the Gally, and taking Seven Men to rowe, and ſteer hir, without any noyſe got out of the Water-percullis, and in the ſame ſilence deſcended the Current for above Three hours; during which, I had again put on the habit of my Sex in the Cabbin, in which I had lockt my ſelf up; when I was dreſt, I came out, and found of our Seven, but Three in the Gally, of which Arzimin was one, of whom I askt, what was become of the reſt, and how ſoon we ſhould land? he told me the other Four were gone in a little Skiff which belong'd to the Gally, to tell Arſaces of my Approach, and that it would be

be an hour before we ſhould go aſhoar, becauſe he durſt not make uſe of his oars: I retyr'd my ſelf ſatisfy'd with that reply, and at the expiration of the hour, Arzimin came to let me know I was ſafely arriv'd where he intended; immediately after, one of the Gally carry'd me out of it in his Arms to a Charriot, which with ſome Thirtie Horſe expected us. I thought it ſomething ſtrange that Arzimin himſelf did not doe it, or that he commanded not ſome other fitter for the employment than he which had undertook it; but I thought it much ſtranger, whē I ſaw him too, come only into the Charriot with me, & when I found him by the help of the Light which thē begā to dawn, to be Surena, Oh Gods! as ſoon as I knew him, I knew my ſelf betray'd; I had only force enough to ſay ſo, for all my Senſes were ſo obliging as to ceaſe their actings, rather than by continuing them, ſo extreamly to afflict me: but Surena, who had more care of my life, than me, by powerfull Cordials brought me to my ſelf; I pay'd his care with a Thouſand Injuries, and if my hate were as great a torment to him, as that Life he reſtor'd me to, was to

me, I could neither have desir'd, nor acted a more sublime revenge. 'Twas either his respect, or his guilt, which all that day kept him in a deep silence, and if he any way evinc'd how much my discontent was his, it was only in sighs. The first Night (after a very long journey) we lay at a Castle which was scituated in so solitarie a place, that I believe it was only built for that end to which Surena then employ'd it: He led me to a Chamber that wanted nothing but his absence, and that conveniencie it soon enjoy'd, for without speaking one word, he saluted me with great humilitie, and left me to the companie of my Thoughts, which in the condition I was in, was the worst I could keep, but his. I had not long the libertie to entertain them, for a young Gentlewoman came into my Chāber, to offer me hir Service then, and if I pleas'd for ever; I accepted of it in the first limitation, but declin'd it in the latter, lest she should have serv'd Surena, and not me. An hour after, Supper was brought in, and that being ended, my new woman resign'd hir place to Surena, who kneeling at my Feet, told me; You see (fair Parthenissa)

niſſa) proſtrate before you, one who ſhould not have the confidence to doe it, did he not believe the not imploring your pardon, a greater misfortune than any, but the not obtaining it; If I have deluded your hopes, I will not your belief; for though I have not given you into Arſaces power, yet I proteſt by your ſelf, I will employ mine to defend and ſerve you, which I am confident is your Faith, and which I aſſure you cannot be more ſo, than it is my inviolable reſolution; 'twas neceſſity, Madam, and not election, made me draw you from a place, where I had no longer the means to preſerve you from abandoning a Servant, who is as much concern'd in your honor, as you are to put your ſelf into the power of another, who would have employ'd all his to deſtroy, not defend what you value moſt; I doe not accuſe my King, that you may the leſs condemn me, I am ſo far from deſiring his crymes, that I would give my Life he had none; for thereby you had bin exempted from inconveniencies, which would be unſupportable, were they not in order to the preventing of greater. Your reſidence, Madam, with Arſaces, I

am convinc'd, would make you wiſh, when perhaps too-too-late, that you had prevented it by greater troubles, than I hope you will ſuffer in your journey; for I have ſo well deluded him, that you may take your own Hours of travell, and that which will end yours, will be a Caſtle of Merinzors in Media, the firſt place to which we intended our flight, had not an unhappy accident prevented it; & Media, Madam, being the Kingdom your Artabbanes muſt one day poſſeſs, I elect to wait on you thither, that your Reaſon, if not your juſtice, may be ſecur'd of the innocency of my deſignes, for had I any which were criminall, I would not have choſen that place for the Scene to act them, where your happy ſervant cānot want hands to act his Revenge. Surena (ſaid Partheniſſa) told me many things of this quality, and ſo proteſted, his ambitiō was to ſolicit, not force my Affection, that I determin'd, ſince I could not prevent the former, not to provoke him to the latter, which the uttering of my juſt reſentments, I apprehended would; 'twas therefore I told him; Though your paſt Crymes might invite me rationally to conclude

clude you capable of any, yet I will not disbelieve your vowes, and profeſſions; which if ever you deſigne to violate, I have the power and the reſolution to prevent; Doe not neceſſitate me to owe that ſafety to my ſelf, which I am not unwilling to derive from you, nor attempt to practice that, which you ſo juſtly condemne in another, and which you eſteem'd ſo foul a Sin, that to prevent it, you eſteem'd Rebellion None. Madam (ſaid Surena) did it not too-much wrong the Beautie of Truth, to arm it with many proteſtations, I ſhould by reitterated ones, binde my ſelf by Religion to that, which I am ſufficiently confin'd unto, without it; and were it lawfull for Surena to repine at any thing the fair Partheniſſa ſayes, he had now but too-abundant an occaſion to doe it, for ſhe muſt believe him as wicked, as unfortunate, to conclude he ſtood in need of any other Argument to deter him from attempting againſt hir honor, than the greatneſs of the Cryme, but Madam, my deportment ſhall be ſo innocent, that you will in the future eſteem your doubts as great an injury to your ſelf, as I can now eſteem them to me. I found, though

though his Expreſſions were humble, that he was highly mov'd at the cauſe of my fears; 'twas therefore I reply'd; I hope Surena, you will not much condemn me for rũning into an error, where the diſcovery of its being one, will prove my ſatisfaction. Your ſatisfaction Madam (ſaid Surena) ſhall be ſtill more conſiderable to me than my own, and ſince I have that invitation, as well as that of virtue, I ſhall as much apprehend any crimminall deſignes, as the fair *Partheniſſa* does deteſt them; thereupon having wiſht me but aſmuch reſt as I could confer on him, he withdrew himſelf to leave me to mine. But I took none, out of an apprehenſion that I had done amiſs in acquainting him with my fears; for 'twas not impoſſible, but to think him capable of that Sin, was to provoke him to it, ſince the very performance could not raiſe in me a worſe beleif of him, than that was of fearing he would perform them. This reaſon, and many another of a reſembling efficacy, made me conclude, that my having declar'd my doubts, was a greater prejudice, than thoſe aſſurances I had from thence deriv'd, was an advantage. You

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may believe, in such disturbances of the Minde, the Bodie could not but participate, so that I was earlyer up, than he that was more concern'd in my being so, and I quited my Bed, not only because I could take no rest in it, but that I resolv'd to add to the obligation of virtue, that of trust, and to go freely to what else I knew I should be constrain'd unto; Surena therefore found me dress't when he came to tell me all things were readie for our journey, if I was; which having told him, he led me to the Charriot, that had all the journey, the same 30 Horse for Convoy, that it had at first; Surena begged and had my permission to ride with me in it.

The Fifth day after we had left the Castle of Eden, we came into Media, which we learn'd was all involv'd in a Domestick War. This made Surena travell with more caution than he had thitherto observ'd, so that constantly he left a couple of his Guard some four or five Furlongs behinde, and sent half a score before, that he might not be surpriz'd. The third day after he had settled this order, one of those, to whose care all

Intelligéce which ſhould happen in the reare was left, came full ſpeed to acquaint his Prince, that his Companion had bin kill'd by a Partie of Horſe which follow'd him a round Gallop. Surena at this Intelligence, leapt out of the Charriot, and whilſt he was arming himſelf, made me many appologies for ſo rude a proceeding; but he was no ſooner fitted to receive his Enemies, than he perceiv'd them, who without any cheapening, charg'd him ſo roundly, that he found he might need thoſe Ten Horſe for the Fight, which he had ſent for Intelligence; one of his Pages went therefore to call them, but two of the unknown Partie, having charg'd thorough all Surena's, came to my Charriot, & having begg'd me to pardon a rudeneſs which was for my ſervice, one of them immediately kill'd the Driver of it, & the other with his ſword, cut the Traces aſſunder; but this performance coſt them their Lives, which they loſt by Three of their Enemies, who fear'd thoſe came not to hinder my flight, but to contribute to it. The Combat being perform'd by Men of ſingular valor, was very bloudie, & in leſs than half an hour,

hour, were reduc'd to so few, as only the chief of either Partie: He of the unknown one, by his unimitable courage, had reduced his Adversary to a condition which needed help, when the Generous Artabbanes interpos'd himself for their reconciliation, and then, from an Interceſſor, became a Partie, not knowing he that was vanquiſh'd, was guiltie; but he abundantly repair'd that mistake, by defending (after the return of those Ten Horſe which were recall'd) a Life, I am much more concern'd to have preſerv'd, than to have Surena's deſtroy'd.

'Twas this (said Symander) that the fair Partheniſſa put a period to a relation, which had as much taken up Artabbanes, and Sillaces's wonder, as attention. I will not tell you how infinitly the firſt of them exclaim'd against the perverſneſs of his Fate, for having render'd the acting his Revenge as great an offece, againſt his Friendſhip, as the omiſſion of it was one againſt his Love. But the fair Partheniſſa, who deſir'd no greater puniſhment for Zephalinda's Brother, & who indeed could wiſh him no greater, than to be out of his protection, and under his Ry-

valls, conjur'd him to be contented with that Revenge, with which ſhe was. Artabbanes was not ſorry, that to the invitations of Friendſhip, he had that additionall one of obedience, for the ſilencing his deſignes of vindicating his wrongs; but they being of too-ſublime a nature abſolutely to be forgotten, leſt his disorders might discover he diſputed whether he ſhould obey Partheniſſa, with hir permiſſion he conjur'd the generous Sillaces to acquaint them, by what ſtrange adventure he was preſented with the bleſſing of ſerving hir. Sillaces, who receiv'd as ſublime a ſatisfaction in his obedience to Artabbanes and Partheniſſa, as he had in hearing hir ſtorie, began his owne ſhort one, in theſe tearms:

From the time I left Rome, 'till I cãe to Nineveh, there happẽ'd nothing worth relating, but that there happen'd nothing that was ſo: But alas, this calme was but too-ſeverely interrupted, for there I underſtood, how that both the Princeſs Lindadory & Partheniſſa, could not more want my ſervice, thã I did the power of paying it thẽ: My dutie to Arſaces, and hope, that by being nearer the Caſtle of Eden,

Eden, I might be ſo to an opportũity of what ſo extreamly & juſtly I ambition'd, made me immediately repair to the Camp, where by the King I was receiv'd with ſuch demonſtrations of affection, that I thought Surena's paſt favour, and preſent condition, had thitherto depriv'd me of that uſage, and then conferr'd it on me; but my ignorance, whether this proceeded from his goodneſs, or deſigne, made me keep him in a perfect one of your condition, and reſolutions; & though I endeavour'd all immaginable wayes to ſerve you, and my ſelf in the Princeſſes; yet the only one in which I did it, was, in perſwading the generous Ariobarzanes, to doe Surena no more ſervices, unleſs he receiv'd an aſſurance from the fair Zephalinda, that in doing them to his Brother, he did them too, to his; This I did out of a confidence Surena had deluded him, and this Ariobarzanes did, not to ſhew me in that confidence, that I was ſo; but when to many Letters of his to Zephalinda he never receiv'd any return, he began to diſcloſe a Truth which his ſo long ignoring had render'd obſtructive to his Kings ends, & his own: I believe this

proceeding haſten'd Surena's, for with his Intelligence, he loſt his hopes; but whilſt I lay languiſhing in deſires & fears, a Packet came from Merinzor to Surena, and by the Carrier of it was deliver'd to Ariobarzanes, but by what I have related, he was become from his Confident, his Enemy; wherefore opening the letters, he found in them a black conſpiracy of raiſing a mutuall Rebellion againſt their Kings, and of affording each other reciprocall aſſiſtance. This I eſteem'd our duties to acquaint Arſaces with, & this Ariobarzanes did ſo too, as an expiation of having formerly convoy'd ſome of Surena's Letters to Merinzor, when he knew not what they imported, & whe he was made believe they only were to preſerve a Coreſpondency, which might preſerve the latter a ſure retreat; but the difficulty was, how to let Orodes know of theſe Letters, & not to let him know, we had ſeen them before; this at length we did, by cauſing a Confident of ours, to bring them haſtily into the Camp, as having taken them from one who by the River was ſtealing into the Caſtle, and which by his Death he had prevented. Orodes having

peruſ'd

perus'd them, found Surena's Rebellion the more dangerous, and that a Forraigner fomenting it, would render it as long, as hazardous. 'Twas therefore he immediatly call'd me to him, where after having told me, that since Ariobarzanes had the next Command under him, all others in the Army would be under me, and that therefore 'till he could finde me out a fit employment, he desir'd I would take upon me that, of being his Embassador to the King of Media, to acquaint him with this fresh Treason, and to procure a League between them, that as two of their Subjects had reciprocally bound themselves to ruine their Kings, so that they should doe the like, to ruine them. This (continu'd Sillaces) I obey'd, partly because I had no employment in the Army, but chiefly that my hopes were less, of serving the Princesses in the Siege, than in my Embassy; For I had understood 'twas Merinzors Power in Media, which hinder'd Moneses from having any, and I had more than a belief, that this favourite, having render'd himself uncapable of becoming so again, you might assume his place; or at least your Right, which I was confident

confident to advance, being employ'd as a publique Miniſter. I was alſo but too-certain, the Siege would laſt longer than the journey, which ſix dayes after, I began, that time being effluxt in giving me my Commiſſion, with my private and publique Inſtructions; but becauſe I deſign'd ſo ſhort a reſidence in *Media*, I took only Twenty Gentlemen, and ſome Servants to wait on me, and being inform'd on the Confines of this Kingdom, that it was freſhly involv'd in a Domeſtick War, I ſent a couple of my Company before the reſt, to avoyd Surprizes; *Theſe* it ſeem'd ſaw thoſe two of Surena's, who fearing Mine, began a round Gallop to recover their Cõpanions, but they were ſo briskly follow'd, that one of them was overtaken, & ſo wounded by a Javelin, that he not only loſt the hopes of his ſafety, but almoſt of his Life; you will believe when I came up, that I was not a little ſurpriz'd, when I found this wounded Priſoner was Palurus, who had the ſame employment under Surena, that his Brother had under Phraates; I concluded by the Servant, that the *Maſter* was not far off, & by threatning to torture him if he acquainted

ed me not where his Prince was, and by promiſing to have a care of his Life, if he did, he told me, how you, Madam, had bin deluded by his Prince, and that you were both but a few furlongs before us. Oh Gods! how was I ſurpriz'd at this ſtrange intelligence? and how many oathes did I extort from the dying Palurus before I could believe him? but as ſoon as I did, leaving him to the care of ſome Peaſants which were preſent, I ran full ſpeed upon the Traces of Surena; two of my Troop I commanded to kill the Charriot-Driver, and to cut the Harneſs, leſt during the fight, I might loſe the reward of it; with the reſt I charg'd my Enemie, in which, the firſt that fell was the falſe Arzimin. You were, Madam, a ſpectator of the reſidue of my ſtorie, and ſo was Artabbanes, who came in when all my Company had kill'd Surena's; & when they had had the honor to ſacrifice all their owne Lives, in an employment which rather deſerves my Envie, than my Grief.

Sillaces (continu'd Symander) having finiſh'd his diſcourſe, all thoſe which had heard it (and he himſelf) were of opinion, the

fair Partheniſſa's deliverance, was repleniſht with ſo many ſtrange conjunctures, that it reliſh'd more of *Providence* than Chance, & that this effect of it, was but an earneſt of a more ſublime and obliging one. I know not whether ſo pleaſing a belief, by having ſo high an influence on Artabbanes's Minde, had a proportionate one on his Bodie; or whether ſo long a charming of his Prince, as that was whilſt his Princeſs and his friend were ſpeaking, did qualifie the violence of his feaver; but I know, that after ſome diſcourſes upon the precedent ones (Partheniſſa being retir'd) he found ſo ſenſible an amendment, that he not only acquainted us with it, but convinc'd us of it; and from that day, ſo uninterruptedly recover'd, that when the generous Sillaces was fit to continue his Embaſſie, my *Prince's* condition was ſo promiſing, that no juſt apprehenſion of his Friend, needed any longer to have ſuſpend it; 'Twas therefore that the fair Partheniſſa came to Artabbanes's Chamber, he not being able to wait on hir in hirs, where ſhe found already Sillaces, and Zenophon, and though this meeting was to conſult upon

on the managing of their designes, yet I was not excluded; I shal pass over their debates, to acquaint you with their results, which were; That Zenophon, with those Forces he had then rais'd, should no longer protract his advancing, since Tygranes stood so much in need of them; That Sillaces as the Parthian Embassador, should accompany Zenophon to his King, to treat, and conclude on that league, which was so requisite, & necessary, to the ruining of my Prince's Ryvalls both in Empire & Love; that Sillaces should employ all his Power as publique Minister for the restoration of Artabbanes, as being Nephew to his King, which he might the more safely negotiate, since Arsaces had really revok'd his Banishment, whether to increase Surenas Fears, or to silence Partheniss'a's; That if he found any inclinations in Tygranes to receive him, he should then, & not otherwise, acquaint him where he was; That Zenophon should depute (during his absence) such a Governor in Arsacia, as was entirely to receive, & obey Artabbanes's cõmands, & as much to conceal his so doing. The next day after this resolution was as-

ſum'd, it was put in a way of being practic'd, Sillaces accompany'd, with Zenophon, whoſe Troops conſiſted of near 10000 Horſe &Foot, began their *March* towards Ecbatan, againſt which Merinzor with 15000 Horſe and 25000 *Foot* was advanc'd, and Campt within ſixteen Furlongs of hir Walls, under which the Kings Forces, which were near, 10000 Horſe, and as many Foot, were intrencht. The Governor left in Arſacia was call'd Cloriman, and had receiv'd his education even from his Cradle under Zenophon, who having found him repleniſht both with Courage, and Iudgement, had given him a large participation both in all his Cõmands, and Fortunes. This young Gentleman was ſo aſſiduous in this duty of his employment, and to Partheniſſa & Artabbanes, that they could not but commend Zenophons Iudgement in his Choyce; I muſt confeſs, I had done ſo too, had I not obſerv'd he was as aſſiduous in more than his reſpects to the fair Emilia, but hir carryage was ſuch, that it gave me rather a ſatisfaction than an Allarm. Artabbanes, ſoon after his being left alone with *Partheniſſa*, never left hir ſo, at leaſt

leaſt when he could do it with civilitie; and my Prince could not be more intent in increaſing *Partheniſſa's* affection, than I was in obtaining Emilia's; ſo that all that time my generous Maſter employ'd in his Loves, I did in mine: but whether it were a puniſhment for having ſo long contemn'd the power of a God, of which I then was ſufficiently convinc'd, or whether it were the fair Emilia's diſpoſition, to behold the effects of hir owne Power, which could not be more viſſible, than in continuing my Paſſion without any demonſtration of hir; for above three *Moons*, though I could not obey my Reaſon, I found more than I had thitherto known, for my deteſting of Love; & though at laſt I receiv'd the felicitie of an aſſurance from the object of my Flame, that ſhe approv'd of, and would reward it, yet it was accompany'd with the misfortune that I deriv'd that declaration from Partheniſſa, and Artabbanes's prayers, as much as from my owne; yet the belief I had, that *Emilia's* Iudgement, not want of affection, made hir elect to oblige Three ſooner than one, gave me a ſatisfaction which hir words had de-

ny'd me; but my *Prince*, who had alreadie obtain'd the victorie over those tedious formallities, now happily pretended to a more transcendent one, by successfully imploring from his Princess, in an Hymeneall Crown, to give his *Passion* the loweſt, and higheſt satisfaction it could ambition: But as Emilias grant was accompany'd with a qualification, so was *Partheniſſa's*; for my *Prince* deriv'd it from his reasons, as well as from hir affection: Those he made use of were, that he could no more repine at the Gods, but at hir, if he were perpetually miserable, since she might hinder his being so, by a Concession of his requeſt, which would not only prove a reparation for his past misfortunes, but a preservative from his future, that then the Gods could neither make his Life short, nor unhappie, since the excellencie of the felicities would repair their want of duration; that hir concession would put a period to his externall, as well as intrinsecall sufferings; for though his Ryvalls might have some hopes to conquer hir Constancie, yet they could have none to doe so to hir virtue. Here the fair Partheniſſa interrupted him,

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by saying; Take heed Artabbanes, lest what you imagine will silence the fury of your Enemyes, doe not render it more fatall; for when they finde you are from but a probable obstacle, become a certaine one, they will no more scruple to take away your Life, than I will to take away my own, after such a loss. Madam (said my Prince) you may banish those apprehensions, for you have by pardoning my crimminall jealousies, so abundantly evidenc'd the Immutability of that esteem you honor me with all, that when to that, you shall ad a religious obligation, the known Truth that thereby we can have but one destiny, will make them have the same care of mine, which they will have of yours; so that Madam, to secure me from danger as well as unhappiness, what I now implore at your Feet, is absolutely necessary. Parthenissa, more satisfy'd with his Arguments, than his motion (though she esteem'd it not fit to mingle felicities with fears, nor to be in the embraces of hir Prince, whilst those who had bin hir Companions in hir sufferings, could not be so in hir joyes) yet at length she yeelded to it; that hir Artabbanes

banes might not say, she deny'd him any thing with reason. Oh Gods! (continu'd Symander) it is impossible I should tell you my Prince's transports, how often he prostrated himself before hir, how many thousand times he embrac'd hir knees and kist hir hands; 'Tis sufficient I assure you, his joy was proportionate to what created it; & that it was impossible the sence could relish those felicities, his Minde did; He blest a Milion of times the privacy of their then condition, which admitted no other preparative but a Priest, lest the celebration of the Nuptiall solemnities, might have so long protracted the celebration of the Nuptiall delights; Artabbanes, after he had by innumerable testimonies of his satisfaction, convinc'd Partheniſſa of it, retir'd to his Appartment, whither immediatly he sent for Cloriman, whom he acquainted with his joyes, and of whom, he desir'd a Priest against the next day, to put him in the way of consummating them. Cloriman, by an erection of his Eyes, and hands, seem'd to participate in my Prince's satisfaction, which yet he somewhat clouded, by telling him, there was never

never a Prieſt in Arſacia, to whoſe fidelitie he durſt truſt ſo important a ſecret; but that within two dayes he would procure one, for whoſe ſecrecie he would anſwer. Artabbanes was ſo transported with his deſires, that he not only eſteem'd the Truſting of any Prieſt could not prove ſo high a prejudice, as a dayes protraction would amount unto; But even would have ſent for any one, and have venter'd on his fidelitie, had not both Cloriman, and I, by many allegations, diſſwaded him from it. But at length, thoſe two dayes expir'd, which he continually ſpent in Partheniſſa's company, earneſtly offering the Gods as many years of his Life, for the cutting off thoſe two dayes. The Night of the laſt he ſpent in as little ſleep, as he would have done the ſucceeding one, and as he did the ſucceeding one, during one half of which, he was kept waking by his deſires, and the other by his fears, and danger; for ſome Three hours before day, he heard all the Citie in an high Allarm, which made him immediately dreſs and arm himſelf to go, and learn the danger, or prevent it; but as he was running to his Princeſs's Appart-

ment, which his Love, and fear made him resolve to defend, and made him resolve was the place would most need his Defence, he heard the Palace Gates forc'd open, and by that time he was come to the top of those great stairs which lead to the fair Parthenissa's Chamber, he saw a Company of Arm'd Men, which were hastily ascending them; he was not near so much astonish'd thereat, as to see at the head of them the perfidious Cloriman, who lifting up his Helmet, told my Prince, 'Tis not my Treacherie Artabbanes, but my Love, has forc'd me to undertake what I should condemn on any other score; The fair Emilia was not content to scorn my Passion, but to receive Symander's, and even to confer hirs on him; I had the heart to do any thing rather than to see this, and my despair only has made me listen to Merinzor and Surena's solicitations, with whom I have agreed to deliver up this City, and from whom I have received a solemne engagement, that I shall have the fair Emilia, and that your Life shall run no hazard, unless by your own resistance you cause it. Traitor (said my Prince) my life has not bin so

ſo bred up in Crimes, that whilſt it has a ſword to defend it, it ſhould derive its preſervation from Infidelitie. No, I had rather loſe it to puniſh thy ſin, than live by it, and either by thy death, and Surena's, I will hinder both your Deſignes, or by my own, your Triumphs. My Prince's blowes began where his words ended, and finding my ſelf oblig'd, both by dutie, affection, and revenge to become Artabbanes's ſecond, I aſſum'd that noble employment, and being aſſiſted with ſome of Zenophons Domeſticks, we ſoon drove before us into the Court, thoſe which were come to aſſault us in the Palace. 'Twas in this retreat, that the falſe Cloriman had the honor to fall by a hand, which rather rewarded than puniſh'd his infidelitie. In my Life I never envy'd any of my Prince's actions but this, for I eſteem'd it but juſt, that being the Author of Clorimans Crime, I ſhould have bin of his puniſhment. Never did Artabbanes purchaſe more Glory by his perſonall Courage, than in this fatall Night; and never the Sunne beheld ſo admirable a ſight, as then he loſt, in not ſeeing the prodigious effects of it. The name of Surena,

and the apprehenſions he ſhould again raviſh from him the fair Partheniſſa, made him act things, which if Surena had ſeen, he could not but have as much admir'd, as fear'd. The place where my generous Maſter and his little Troop, had alreadie made that of his Enemies leſſe, was under Partheniſſa's window, which ſoon after was haſtily open'd by Emilia, who cry'd out, they were forcing the Princeſs's Apartment. Artabbanes had ſcarcely heard that voice, when he flew from a victorie, to a freſh danger, with more celeritie than the greateſt Courages could to the former, or the greateſt fears from the latter; I follow'd him as faſt as my feet could carry me, and yet before I could overtake him, he had engag'd himſelf in Partheniſſa's out-Chamber, amongſt as many Enemies, as he had alreadie kill'd. All the ſervice I could doe him, was, by defending the Door, to hinder their increaſe, which I did as long as I could uſe my ſword; but I loſt that and my ſences together; yet to hinder that with my Bodie, which I could not with my ſtrength, I fell croſs the Door, and there lay as ſome little impediment. In the

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mean while Partheniſſa hearing a ſtrange noyſe at hir Door, every moment expected when it would be broke open, and having a while fruitleſsly attended that misfortune, ſhe began to apprehend ſhe was freed from it by a greater; hir fears gave hir no time to conſult hir ſafety, ſo that immediately opening it, ſhe discover'd they were but too-too-well grounded; For alas my Prince, who thitherto defended it, had receiv'd ſo many wounds, & loſt ſo much bloud, that he was conſtrain'd to lean his back againſt it, ſo that miſſing his ſupport, he fell backwards into the Princeſs's Chamber, weltring in a Sea of bloud: Partheniſſa loſt not hir judgement, though ſhe did almoſt hir hopes, at ſo fatall an object, for in the twinckling of an Eye, ſhe thruſt to the Chamber Door, which by good fortune, having a ſpring lock, was as ſoō lockt as ſhut; our Enemies admir'd that their advantage was ſo ſoon turn'd to Artabbanes's; but Partheniſſa, who apprehended they would immediately force ſo weak an impediment, conjur'd Artabbanes to permit hir to lead him down a back ſtairs, which at leaſt

would preſerve his Life from the fury of thoſe, whom he had ſo extreamly incenſt, 'till the arrivall of ſome of their Superiors, of whom (as ſhe ſaid) ſhe made no queſtion to obtain it, when ſhe implor'd it with Tears. No *Madam* (ſaid my *Prince* ſomtimes reeling, ſomtimes leaning on his Sword, and all his Cloaths dropping with blood) I can but ſuffer Death by fighting againſt your Enemies, but I may deſerve it by avoyding them; Neither Madam ſhall you pay to Surena ſo pretious a ranſome as your Tears, for a Life, which by your being in his *Power*, is far better loſt than ſav'd: Doe not (fair Partheniſſa) deny me the glory of dying at your feet, & for your defence, ſince 'tis the higheſt and pleaſing'ſt I can (by your preſent condition) now aſpire unto. My generous Prince ſpake theſe few words with as much trouble, as the fair *Partheniſſa* heard them, who ſo abundantly deplor'd his danger, by this freſh additionall information, that ſhe had loſt the very thought of hindring it; neither indeed could ſhe have done it, for the weak Door was inſtantly broken, and above a dozen arm'd *Men* came to robb *Artabbanes* of a Life,

Life, that he then was but too-desirous to lose; yet not to die unlike himself, recollecting that little strength he had left, he cast himself on the neareſt to him, and with his Ponyard (for he had flung away his Sword, as a weapon his weakneſs render'd him unable to use) with two or three stabbs, depriv'd him of Life; but my Prince fell with his Enemy, and all the reſt taking that advantage, had doubtleſs acted the revenge of their Companions, if the generous Partheniſſa (by flinging hir self on Artabbanes's body) had not become his Armour, and preſerv'd him, when he was no longer able to preſerve himself; for as the Gods would have it, Surena had given ſuch univerſall, & ſtrict order for their reſpecting of Partheniſſa, that his Souldiers could not be more carefull of hir, than ſhe had render'd it impoſſible (they being ſo) that my Prince ſhould receive any farther harm; for ſhe ſo cover'd his Body with hirs, that thereby ſhe had render'd their Fates as inſeparable, as their affections; but one of Surena's Souldiers more intent upon Revenge, than obedience, threatn'd the Princeſs, that if any longer ſhe

became

became his Sanctuary, ſhe ſhould be ſo far from hindering his Fate, that ſhe ſhould ſhare in it. Partheniſſa with a diſdainfull look, told him, what he ſaid, was rather an invitation to proſecute, than to deſiſt from what ſhe had begun; And though ſo generous a reply ſhould have rather created the barbarous Souldiers admiration, than rage; yet it did the latter, for he began ſo uncarefully to thruſt at my Prince, that Partheniſſa had then no more hopes, but to dye with him. The fair Emilia mov'd with ſo horrid a proceeding, & with hir Princeſs's skreeks, immediatly, as if Artabbanes's Soule (which all this while ſeem'd to have abandon'd his Body) were flown into hirs, took up his Sword, and guided by a divine influence, paſt it through that Monſter; yet the thruſt was not ſo mortall, but that he had ſtrength enough left to doe more miſchief, than, if Partheniſſa, Artabbanes, and Emilia had bin out of his power, he could have done in all the world beſides; & doubtleſs had effected it, if a Gentleman all cover'd with Arms, and bloud, had not come running into the Chamber, & made an end

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of that Monſter, who otherwiſe had made an end of Perfections, which even in degrees equall'd his Crimes. All thoſe that were preſent, knew him by his Armour to be Surena, and Partheniſſa did ſo, as ſoon as he had lifted up his Helmet, which he did, to let hir know who 'twas, that proſtrate at hir feet, begg'd hir Pardon for his Souldiers horrid inſolencie, whoſe Sins he could not be thought guiltie of, ſince he had ſo ſignally puniſh'd them. Partheniſſa, who 'till then had eſteem'd Surena's Paſſion as great a misfortune, as he had the unſucceſsfulneſs of it, now began to hope, that the Gods would repair the injuries it had done hir, by making of it ſave a Life, which it had ſo often endanger'd; and the ſooner to trie hir power in ſo ambition'd an eſſay, ſhe implor'd from Surena a Life which ſhe more apprehended was not in his power to grant, than in his will. Surena with much humilitie proteſted, he was come to receive hir Commands, not hir intreaties, and to evidence he would never decline any of them, he would not that; which by how much ſhe did appear concern'd in it, by ſo much did the deſert of

his obedience do so. The Princess having not only receiv'd his promise, but his protestation of his Concession, rise from that Posture, which did not preserve Artabbanes from more wounds, than it did give Surena; which he endeavour'd to conceal, lest the greatness of his Merit, might have made Partheniſſa question, the reallitie of it; so that with a Countenance which relish'd more of trouble for his Rivals present condition, than that he was going to improve, and mend it, leaving the Princess weeping on hir knees by Artabbanes's bodie, he ran, and call'd his owne Chyrurgion, and in hir hearing commanded him (the first thing he did) to dress my Prince's wounds, and with the same care, as if they had bin his: But alas, that order was suddenly chang'd by Surena's perceiving some bloud dropping down Partheniſſa's Arm, which proceeded from a slight hurt she had receiv'd, in the shoulder, descending Artabbanes. Oh Gods! what did not Surena say, when he saw that pretious bloud spilt by one, which had bin under his cõmand? he caus'd that dead Traitor immediately to be carry'd out, and hung in Chains

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in the Allarm-place, and by presenting his Sword to Partheniſſa, implor'd, & gave hir the power to ſhed all his, as an expiation. But ſhe, (more concern'd in Artabbanes's than all things elſe) only enjoyn'd Surena the Penance, that his Rivalls wounds, might be dreſt before hirs; which ſhe aſſur'd him did not ſo much trouble hir, as he ſeem'd to be troubl'd at it; Partheniſſa could not have impoſ'd a more ſevere Penance on Surena, & doubtleſs he had not ſubmitted to it, if it had bin unaccompany'd with that aſſurance; beſides, imagining ſhe would not expoſe ſuch beauties to his ſight, as were to be the reward of the Chyrurgions Art, he haſtily cauſ'd his Ryvall to be dreſt in the Princeſs's bed, which he appologiz'd for, by beſeeching hir to remove unto another Appartment, & out of ſo much bloud and confuſion. Partheniſſa neither heard his excuſe, or deſires; for the Chyrurgions, by giving Artabbanes ſtrong Cordialls, by ſtopping his blond, and by binding up his wounds, made him by ſome deep groans, teſtifie he was not dead. Never was any of his Addreſſes, or profeſſions, ſo pleaſing to that fair Princeſs as were thoſe

groans; and never could ſhe have believ'd 'till then, that the Cods themſelves could have made hir take ſo much delight in Artabbanes's; whoſe recoverie the Chyrurgions aſſur'd hir would be infinitly prejudic'd (if not worſe) if he were in ſo weak a condition any way diſturb'd. Partheniſſa therefore begging, and obtaining from Surena, that hir Appartment might be the next to my Prince's, continu'd immovable by him, expecting 'till it were made readie, and 'till he ſhould give ſome freſh and more pregnant teſtimonies, of a Life, ſhe could not be more joy'd to recover, than if it were fled, ſhe was reſolv'd to follow.

PARTHENISSA.

THE SECOND PART.

THE SEVENTH BOOK.

WHilſt the Princeſs was beſtowing her Care and Tears on Artabbanes, the fair Emilia ſtole from hir to do the like on me, and found I was not far from the place in which my ſtrength had ſo injuriouſly abandon'd me; For Surena's Souldiers by believing I had loſt my Life, took it not away, but contented themſelves only with dragging me from that place

place in which I had proved ſome little impediment to them. There 'twas that Emilia perceiv'd me; and though it were in ſo forlorn a condition, yet it was in as good a one, as I could have ambition'd, ſince it equall'd my Prince's; for whom my concerns were more tranſcendent, than for my Paſſion: Emilia by a faint beating of my Heart, diſcover'd ſome hopes of Life, at which ſhe aſſum'd as ſublime a ſatisfaction, as mine would have bin, had I bin capable of ſeeing hirs; which receiv'd no ſmall acceſſion by the accidentall paſſing by of one of hir Fathers Domeſticks, whom ſhe knew to be a Chyrurgion of as much Fidelitie, as Art, & who perhaps had deriv'd his own preſervation, from the Enemies knowledge of the latter. To his care the fair Emilia committed me, but in terms ſo preſſing, that he found my recoverie no indifferent thing unto hir. With both their helps I was carried to a Chamber contiguous to hirs, where, whilſt thoſe Cordials I had receiv'd were operating, ſhe return'd to Parthenissa, who ſhe found in the continuance of a Charitie as perfect, as either hir that conferr'd, or he that

that receiv'd it. She had longer engag'd hir ſelf in that employment, had not the Chyrurgions proteſted to hir it was a fruitleſs one; and that as ſoon as ever Artabbanes was in a condition to know, or receive the honor ſhe did him, they would bring hir advice of it. Partheniſſa having had a reiterated aſſurance of this engagement from thoſe who had made it, immediately went to hir Appartment, which was joyning to my Prince's, and was waited on thither by Surena, who more concern'd in hir recoverie than hir Companie, to evince that Truth, immediately retir'd hir ſelf into an out-Chamber, from whence he ſent in the Chyrurgions to dreſs a Hurt, which though ſlight to hir that had receiv'd it, was almoſt mortall unto two that had not. As ſoon as they had perform'd their Dutie, Surena came in to perform his, which he did in theſe terms; If, Madam, the greatneſs of the Crime of ſhedding your blond, does not ſufficiently illuſtrate I am innocent of it, I doe proteſt before all the Gods, that had I known my unfortunate Flame, ſhould have had ſo unfortunate a way of recovering you out of my

Ryvalls

Ryvalls Power, I had rather eternally have bin deny'd that felicitie, than purchas'd it at so criminall a rate: Yes Madam, my respect, and my *Passion* know nothing superior to them, but the Beautie to which I pay the former, and which does inspire the latter; whose perfections are such, that they necessitate me to things which would be unpardonable, had they a lesser attraction; but my Sins have so ample a one, that none (except you and your Artabbanes) but by seeing the cause of them, will rather commend than excuse their effects; I speak not this Madam, to invite you by reason to pardon my unhappie performance, I had much rather receive mine from you, than from your justice, that what invites your Mercy, may prove a more transcendent blessing, than your *Mercy* it self. I should be (said Partheniſſa) too-unjust, did I esteem you guiltie of a Crime which you have so exemplarily punish'd; but I must tell you, had you bin innocent of all others, you could not have suspected your self guiltie of this, nor bin necessitated to protestations, of whose reallity you have yet a more perswasive way to create

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my belief; For if (as your vowes would perſwade me) your concerns are more for me, than your ſelf, you may obligingly evince it, by reſtoring both Artabbanes and me to a Freedom, which will make us much more yours, than your force has done or can doe; and create thoſe reſentments in me, which nothing but ſuch a performance, is capable to inſpire. Oh Gods! (ſaid Surena, lifting up his Eyes to Heaven) you cannot (Madam) be henceforth offended at my Paſſion, when in ſpight of your Modeſtie, you confeſs you believe the power your perfections give you over me, to be infinite, by making ſuch a Motion: Alas Madam, was it not enough that you made me ſave my Ryvall's life, but that you muſt command me to render my ſelf almoſt as miſerable, as I make him happy? For to give away my hopes of the fair Partheniſſa, is almoſt to be curſ'd as much, as to poſſeſs hir, is to be bleſt. I tell you this Madam, that you may forgive my juſtifiable disobedience, nothing but ſuch a cõmand could make me give it ſuch a name, & I cannot but eſteem my ſelf excuſable, if having ſo truly profeſ'd an ũimitable Paſſion

for you, I decline an obedience, which would but too-fatally bring that truth in queſtion; Do not *Madam*, I beſeech you, invite me to gain your favour, by what will make me eternally loſe the hopes of it, nor condemn a disobedience, in which you may diſcover a Flame, greater than the Sin which diſcloſes it. If (ſaid *Partheniſſa*) I had that high opinion of my ſelf, that you would infer my requeſt ſeems to import, I ſhould not then have made it, but the little invitation you have to continue an ill-plac'd Affection, both for the Choice and the Succeſs, and the great propenſitie you have to generous things, made me believe, by repreſenting to you the latter, I might diſwade you from the former, and in one performance invite you to act, both according to the Dictates of reaſon, and Gallantrie. The firſt of theſe Madam (ſaid Surena) I cannot more indiſputably do, than in continuing my adoration for the fair *Partheniſſa*; and the laſt it may be I have alreadie done, in giving a Life to hir ſatisfaction, which has depriv'd me of any. But Surena, who took as little delight in theſe requeſts, as Partheniſſa did

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in the condition, which render'd hir making them neceſſarie, immediately withdrew himſelf, and he was ſcarcely gone, when one of Artabbanes's Chyrurgions came running into hir Chamber, to let hir know, that his Senſes being reſtor'd, to indear his Patients preſervation, he had told him, from whom, and how he deriv'd it; but that had bin ſo far from producing the expected effect, that it had done the Contrary, for immediatly after the Information, he had imploy'd that little ſtrength he had left, to the tearing off his Plaiſters, and to the acting of ſuch extravagancies, that his Companions had bin, and were neceſſitated to hold his Arms by force, 'till he were run to implore hir to do it, by hir commands. *Parthenisſa* had hardly the leaſure to hear ſo fatall an information, for hir ſudden running to my *Prince's* Chamber, whom alas ſhe ſtill found violently held by the Chyrurgions & their Servants. Great Gods! (continu'd Symander) what did not that fair *Princeſs* doe at ſo ſad a ſpectacle? ſhe could not ſee hir generous Servant all pale and bloudie, and with looks as full of horror as his Thoughts, but ſhe melted into Tears,

and kneeling by his Beds ſide, ſhe told him; Is Partheniſſa then become ſo odious to Artabbanes, that rather than not become hir Murtherer, he will become his owne? have the Gods bin ſo miraculouſly your preſervers, to make you become as miraculouſly your owne Deſtroyer? Have I endanger'd my life to ſave yours, and is this the return you make me? are we not miſerable enough by our Deſtinies, but we muſt make our ſelves more by our Deſpair? Cruel Artabbanes, if Death only can give us eaſe, was there ever any ſuch disproportion in our Iudgements, as ſhould induce you now to believe a disproportionate Fate, ſhall create a reſembling ſatisfaction; or do you deteſt my Conſtancie, that you take ſo ſudden and fatall a Courſe to avoid beholding it? Great Gods! (ſhe continu'd raiſing hir voice and hir hands) if alreadie my afflictions have not evidenc'd my fidelitie, give me Tryalls of it as great as it ſelf, and let the reſidue of my Life be ſpent in ſuch ſufferings, as may manifeſt that immutability, which it ſeems my paſt ones could not. My Prince (ſaid Symander) more wounded with theſe words,

words, than he was with his Enemies ſwords, having firſt obtain'd from Partheniſſa that ſhe would ſit upon his Bed, with as many Sighes, as words, told hir; It is time my *Princeſs*, it is now time, if it had not bin before, to act what you are come to interrupt: Can I live but in a higher Crime than to become my own Murtherer, after you interpret a production of my Flame, & Care, to be one of my hatred and jealouſie? Alas thoſe are both equall and impoſſible Sins; that I can hate the fair *Partheniſſa* is ſo egregious a misbelief, that but to Name, is to confute it; and to doubt hir Conſtancy, is to doubt what by a ſad, and happy experiment, I have found is as tranſcendent in perfection, as to ſuſpect it, is the contrary in an oppoſite extream. No *Madam*, what I was doing proceeded abſolutly from my love to my *Princeſs*, and from my knowledge of hir Conſtancy; The firſt of theſe, made me eſteem it both juſt, and rationall to ſet a period to an unfortunate Life, which experimentally I found, had hitherto render'd hirs ſo; & the laſt, made me eſteem it as luſt, & Rationall, ſince hir Conſtancy (by what ſhe

had ſo often & ſo recently perform'd) would confine hir to a Fate, which the Gods had confin'd to eternall misfortunes, to cut off the cauſe of their Cruelty, and leave them thereby as little excuſe for the continuation of it, as while ſhe ſo infinitly misplaces the bleſſing of hir affection, ſhe affords them too-much. In brief Madam, I was practiceing but what you approv'd in Surena, for I was but taking away a Life, that had indanger'd yours, which is ſo great a Duty, that without a proportionate Injuſtice you cannot hinder it. Are you then Artabbanes (the Princeſs reply'd) ſo ignorant of my affection, as to believe I can ſurvive the object of it? the Gods by what they doe, but indanger our Lives, but you by what you deſigne, will inevitably end them; can an evincement that I love you more, induce you to love me, & your ſelf the leſs; we are not miſerable enough to deſpair, when we can make our ſelves more ſo; & what you ſo fatally deſigne will abundantly doe it; The Gods as they have hitherto try'd our Conſtancyes, will in the future reward them, if what you intend prevent it not: Doe not therefore my Artab-

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banes doubly injure them, by doubting of their Mercy, and by hindering them to act it; I doe not tell you this, that I decline bearing you company, no, I am ready to do it; By killing your ſelf, you cannot more certainly go before me to another life, than I will the ſame moment follow you; neither can you ſuſpect, that ſhe who has bin your Companion in the ſufferings of virtue, will decline being ſo, when you go to receive the reward of it. I ſhould never finiſh my Relation (ſaid Symander) did I particularize all their diſcourſes, I will therefore only tell you their reſult, which was, that after many reaſons, Partheniſſa's prevail'd; but then my Prince's retributions had almoſt proved as fatall, as his Deſpair, for forcing himſelf to make them in a poſture fitting their condition, not his, a great wound he had receiv'd in the ſide, unfortunatly open'd, out of which there iſſued ſuch a flux of bloud, that the Chyrurgions could not be more troubl'd at it, than they were to ſtop it; and, one of the remedyes they preſcrib'd for that end, was, that Partheniſſa ſhould leave the Chamber, which ſhe obey'd, after ſhe had received ma

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ny reiterated proteſtations, that Artabbanes did leave off all violent deſignes againſt his own Life, and conſequently againſt hirs. I will not (continu'd Symander) any longer uſurp upon your patiences, which I fear my juſt concerns in every particular action of my Prince's, has already made me do too-much: You ſhall therefore only know, that my wounds by the fair Emilias care were recover'd before my Prince's, whereby I was free'd (by being enabl'd to wait on him) from a greater trouble than they themſelves had bin. Surena not only knew what belong'd to a Gentleman, but practic'd it by a conſtant viſiting of Artabbanes, and by demonſtrating as much care in his recovery, as if it had bin to have reſtor'd him to hopes, and not to have depriv'd him of them. And truly, except his Crimes in Love, I never knew him guilty of any, nor never act what was unworthy the noble Title of Zephalinda's Brother, but in his Flame, he was as cryminall as unſucceſsfull, though his Partizans alleaged, that only therein being ſo, it was not his Nature, but Paſſion which offended. During my Prince's danger, Surena permit-

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ed Partheniſſa unreſtrainedly to viſit him, either out of Civilitie, or Revenge; the firſt, that he might be deny'd nothing conducive to his health, and the laſt, that ſhe might ſee that he wanted it; but as ſoon as that was reſtor'd, he loſt a converſation which made him think it a misfortune; but this was ſo handſomely carry'd, that it was only in Surena's abſence, who went to the Frontiers to receive his Brother, and his Armie; and perhaps he elected that courſe, to induce partheniſſa to wiſh for his return; as alſo in his abſence to hinder an union which had ſo narrowly bin interrupted. The fair Emilia, and I, were the conſtant Embaſſadors between the generous Lovers, and by the excellent example of their Paſſion, learn'd to form our owne. Surena having met Vixores, ſent him, and his Forces to joyn with Merinzor, but being himſelf more concern'd in Love, than Glory, return'd to Arſacia, where he receiv'd the intelligence, that Tygranes (before Sillaces and Zenophon were joyn'd with him) being impatient at Merinzor's, in ſome manner beſieging him, had put his Fate to a Battell which he had loſt,

and with exceeding difficultie recover'd the walls of Ecbatan, under which it had bin fought; that when the King was reduc'd to the laſt extremitie, the Parthian Embaſſador, with 5000 of Zenophon's Armie, had forc'd the Guards of the Camp, and flung himſelf into the Citie, which he deſpair'd not to defend, 'till Zenophon, who with the reſidue of his Armie was retreated to Chriſapolis, could ſo recruit it, as to bring the Deſtinie of Media to a ſecond Field. Surena acquainted the Princeſs with this intelligence, but ſo unconcernedly, as if the diſſatisfaction it brought hir, ſuppreſt the contentment it afforded him. But as ſoon as Partheniſſa had deſir'd the permiſſion of viſiting Artabbanes, which during his abſence had bin deny'd hir, he not only waited on hir to his Chamber, but ſent for the Governor thither, whom he reprehended for his incivilitie, and puniſh'd alſo, by diſcharging him from the Government of Arſacia, which made many believe, their ſeparation had bin his fault, not Surena's; though at leaſt as many concluded, Surena practic'd the common Art among Princes, of disgracing Servants

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for committing of obliging (and sometimes commanded) offences. That too, which almost turn'd this belief into a certaintie, was, that he was sent to a command, which was rather a preferment than a Punishment; and Surena never permitted the Lovers to converse but in his presence, yet so artificially, that none which had not bin exceedingly concern'd in it, could have taken notice of it. One Evening, when Surena was in Partheniſſa's Chamber, there came into it a Gentleman of Merinzor's, who presented him a Letter from his Prince, which he read with often starting, and change of colour, and which he had not sooner perused, than he presented it to Partheniſſa, who found in it these words;

Merinzor to the generous Surena.

OVr Ryvall in Love and Empire must die, both for your securitie and mine, and that you may enjoy with felicitie what I shall with Envie, I have given one the charge of his Execution, who you shall not be acquainted with, but after he has done you an obligation you have

hitherto declin'd conferring on your ſelf, thought am confident you diſreliſh'd nothing in the performance, but that you were to act it.

As ſoon as the fair Partheniſſa had receiv'd this fatall Letter, he that brought it, and was the Perſon mention'd in it, went out of hir Chamber into Artabbanes's, whō he found all alone, and in ſo deep a Melancholly, that he was almoſt deſiring that Death, the other was come to give him: My Prince, who thought him ſome Gentleman ſent from Surena to viſit him, riſſe from the place he ſat on, and went to ſalute him; but the other, firſt locking the Door, drew his ſword, and having told him, he was come to revenge his Brothers Death or to follow him, ran with it at Artabbanes, who by the reſemblance this Traytor had to him he had kill'd in Partheniſſa's Chamber, concluded, and that truly, 'twas him he meant. But this as unexpected as dangerous an adventure, which would have diſturbed a leſs Reſolution than my generous Maſter's, raiſed his, for ſtepping two or three Paces back, he put by as many thruſts, and ſnatching up the Chair he

he had ſat on, made uſe of that as a ſhield; the noyſe which this ſcuffle made, was ſo great, that it was eaſily heard in Partheniſſa's Chamber, which was contiguous to my Prince's, and obſerving that he which had brought the Letter was gone out of it, and ſuſpecting the noyſe ſhe heard proceeded from the cauſe it did, and which ſhe ſo much apprehended, immediately with the wings of fear, and Love, ſhe flew towards the ſcene where this Tragedie was acting, and Surena after hir; but finding the Door lockt, the Princeſs cry'd out, Will you then Surena permit Artabbanes to be murther'd? you ſhall derive no advantage from it, for I atteſt thoſe Gods (who cannot be ſo, if they puniſh not this Sin) what ever be my Artabbanes's fate, I will make it mine; Surena heard not theſe words, for he was then running againſt the Door, which he did ſo violently, and ſucceſsfully, that he broke it open, juſt as Artabbanes was ſo tyr'd with his unweldie ſhield, that his weakneſs was giving his Enemie an advantage, which his courage would never have conferr'd on him, Surena with his naked ſword, and by a great Crie, made

the Traytor turn about, who finding by his new Adversaries Posture, his Designe, resolv'd to prevent it, and by a furious thrust, past his sword through Surena's bodie, but not offending any of the noble parts, he had strength enough left, not only to interpose himself between Artabbanes(who was fallen down) & his Enemie,but by a happy thrust, to deprive the latter of his Life. I cannot (said Symander) sufficiently exalt this generous performance, for it was as much above description, as expectation, and almost equally divided Partheniſſa's Tears, & Charitie between the generous Ryvalls, who both by their wounds, lay weltering in a sea of bloud at hir feet: But the Princess,who fear'd there might be more in the Conspiracie, believing she might defer hir gratitude to act hir Care,and thought the latter somewhat expreſt the former, ran out to call for assistance; The first she met was Emilia,and I, who had bin walking in the Palace-Gallaries, in a conversation almost as pleasing as the action she told us of Surena's was generous. Emilia instantly ran to call the Chyrurgions, and the Princess and I, to see what we

we could doe in their abſence; we found Surena in a deep ſwound, and my Prince on his knees by him, neglecting his owne danger, and ſtopping with his hand, the orifice of that wound, which had caſt his Ryvall into that condition, and which had hinder'd my Prince from being in no worſe a one; Doubtleſs this Gallantrie was the more ſo, by being conferr'd on one inſenſible of it, and who could hardly repine at his being in ſo dangerous a condition, ſince it evidenc'd how pretious his Life was to the moſt accompliſht of Men. Partheniſſa, in expectation of the Chyrurgions arrivall, tore all the Linen ſhe wore, and had the ſtrength to tear, with which ſhe ſomewhat ſtopt the generous Ryvalls bleeding, in a confidence, that what was Artabbanes's deſigne, could not be his trouble; neither indeed was it, for the firſt thing for which ſhe had his retribution, was, for his Care of Surena; who ſuddenly after *Emilia's* and the Chyrurgions coming, was carry'd on Artabbanes's bed, who would not permit his owne wounds to be touch'd, 'till Surena's were dreſt, & then having more ſtrength than he, by the help of

of ſome ſervants, he exchang'd their Appartments. Surena (as I have ſaid) having none of his vitalls offended, gave his Chyrurgions no other trouble than to ſtop an internall bleeding, who being perfect in their Art, they ſucceſsfully did it; 'Twas then they acquainted him with my Prince's care in ſtoping his wound, and proteſted to him, 'twas from thence he deriv'd his Life, and that if Artabbanes's ran any hazard of his owne, it would proceed from his not having done that to himſelf, which he had done to him. Surena magnify'd my Prince's gallantrie in ſuch preſſing terms, that all thoſe which heard him, were convinc'd, 'twas as much his Truth, as his Civilitie which ſpake; and having learn'd he had reſign'd his Appartment to him, he was almoſt as much troubled at it, as at the cauſe of it, and ſent to implore his pardon for a fault, he had permited and not acted. Neither did Surena's care extend to the formall, but even to the eſſentiall parts of it, for out of an apprehenſion, Merinzor might perform what he had but attempted, he commanded his Guard of an hundred Partizans, to become my Prince's,

and

and each of them to anſwer his Life with their owne. It is almoſt impoſſible (continu'd Symander) to tell you how equally Partheniſſa divided hir viſits, and how proportionately gratitude, and affection govern'd hir; but it is abſolutely ſo, to expreſs with how much ſatisfaction Artabbanes obſerv'd it, and perhaps as much ſo, for any which knew him not, to believe it. Some three or four dayes after this accident, Partheniſſa (as ſhe uſually did) went to viſit Surena, who the Phyſitians proteſted might then ſpeak to hir with leſs prejudice, than his ſilence would bring him. 'Twas then after ſome other uſuall Civilities, and that Partheniſſa began to deplore his condition, that he told hir; The Gods (Madam) which knew how fit it was you ſhould know the tranſcendencie of my Paſſion, and how unfit it was you ſhould know it by that fatall way in which you deſir'd to be convinc'd of it, have (I hope) ſo demonſtrated that Truth, that you can no longer doubt it; which conſequently I ſhall never deplore, ſince 'twas a manifeſtation I would not only have purchaſ'd with the hazard of my Life, but even

with the loſs of it, had not that loſs carry'd with it a greater; and knowing Madam, that you are perfect in all your attributes, I cannot doubt, but the higheſt Paſſion, may aſpire to the higheſt reward, and that mine is ſo, cannot be a greater certaintie, than your not believing it ſo is an injuſtice. Partheniſſa, who expected reproches inſtead of requeſts, liſten'd to the latter with ſatisfaction, and indeed it was the leſs troubleſome of the two, for it is ſo, to have requeſts made, than to make them; Hir criminall ſuſpitions of Surena's being acceſſarie to, or at leaſt permitting Artabbanes's intended Murther, merited a higher penance than ſhe then ſuffer'd, and concluding it better not to discover hir offence, than to obtain a forgiveneſs for it, ſhe elected the firſt of theſe, and therefore only anſwer'd him; That the generous Surena has as infinitly oblig'd me, as he has his Ryvall, cannot be a more indiſputable Truth, than that the ſtrange way, in which he has preſerv'd Artabbanes for Partheniſſa, is an evidence how much the Gods are concern'd in his being ſo preſerv'd; ſo that there wants in the obligation to render it

perfect,

perfect, but that you will make the same construction, of the same performance. Oh Gods (said Surena) it is high time to despair, when even those very arguments which evince the height, and pureness of my flame, are perverted to inferences, that I should extinguish it, or resigne my hopes to him that has not so legitimate ones. Partheniſſa, who perceiv'd by this reply, that she had touch'd him in a place he was more sensible of, than of his wounds, began in hir subsequent discourses, to give him hir resolutions in such terms, that though Surena evidently read hir intentions, yet he could hardly quarrell at those expressions which acquainted him with them. Whilst affairs were in this condition in Arsacia, those in Ecbatan were strangely alter'd, since Syllaces had cast himself into it; that generous Prince by his Courage, & Conducts, so raiſ'd the Defendant's resolutions, that their Fears of preserving the place, were much less than Merinzor's of not obtaining it; neither was this the only productions of his virtue, for by the unintermitted, and visible effects of it, he had wone such an Ascendent over the King of

Media's inclinations, that neither the affection he had given Merinzor, nor the preſent hatred he payd him, could in degrees either equall the eſteem or Friendſhip he had ſo juſtly contracted for my Prince's Friend; who ſo well improv'd this acquiſition, that he had no ungrounded hopes to render Artabbanes at leaſt an equall ſharer in this good fortune. And though Merinzor who had learn'd from whence ſo ſucceſsfull a reſiſtance proceeded, did alleadge, that Syllaces, by taking up Arms, had violated and infringed the dutie of an Embaſſador; yet it hinder'd not Syllaces from proceeding in what he had ſo far advanc'd, but induced him to offer Merinzor the Combate for the clearing this aſperſion, which he declining, his allegation was anſwered by a large Manifeſt, whoſe effect was; That being imploy'd from his King, to negotiate a League for the mutuall deſtruction of their Rebels, he did nothing againſt his Commiſſion or employment, if he contributed to what he came to treat of. But at length, all the joy of his frequent ſucceſſes were extinguiſh'd in the fatall newes of Surena's ſurprizing Arſacia, which

which was brought him by a Spye he had ſent into the Enemies Camp, who only could aſſure him of that misfortune, but not of any particulars which ſucceeded it; Syllaces to make his Enemies wear his Liverie, by Tygranes conſent, drew out all the Forces of Ecbatan, but thoſe which were upon the Guard, and in the dead of Night, made ſo furious an attempt on Merinzors Camp, that he ſent ſome Thouſands to ſleep eternally, and doubtleſs might have raiſ'd the Siege, with the Garriſon, had not an unfortunate Dart given him ſo dangerous a woūd, that his Souldiers converted their care of victorie, into one for him; and the former he himſelf had ſo far advanc'd, that the latter, for as much as concern'd his bringing off, was not difficult; he was met at the Gate by the King, who gave to the Danger of his Protector as many Tears, as to his own, by ſo fatall a deprivation. Syllaces, who (as well as his Phyſitian) thought himſelf in the ſtate of Death, deſir'd that his Chamber might be emptied of all but Tygranes, of whom he implor'd, that he would confer that high affection he had honor'd him with, on Artab-

banes (if living) and Lyndadory, for whose resentments, fidelitie, and esteem of it, he would give his dying breath for securitie, & that if he might receive an assurance of this Concession, he should leave the World with as much satisfaction, as the leaving it in so ill a conjuncture for his affairs, would permit. Tygranes, whom adversitie had set into the wayes of virtue, by the dictates of it, and by being sensibly touch'd by the last request of so generous, and dying Friend, first granted it by Tears, and then by Protestations, which gave Syllaces, a satisfaction his present condition seem'd to be uncapable of; But the Gods had reduced him to this extreamitie, but in order to their acting a double Myracle, that of restoring him to Life, and *Moneses's* bloud, to Tygranes's favour, and good opinion. I cannot tell whether the joy of that grant contributed to, or acted the former, but I am certain, from the Minute he receiv'd it, as if the bodie had participated in the satisfaction of the Minde, it began to amend; but yet so slowly, that Tygranes had but too many experiences, that his succes, under the Gods, was derived from

from the generous Syllaces; Neither was the good Fortune of *Merinzor's* without ſome Clouds, for as he computed the buſineſs, he apprehended before he could reduce Ecbatan to his *Power*, either Syllaces recoverie, or Zenophon's increaſing Armie, would caſt him into the ſame deſpair which that generous Prince's performances, had involv'd him in alreadie; but when to theſe apprehenſions, the intelligence was brought him, that not only his deſigne on Artabbanes was deſtroy'd, but that it was ſo too, by Surena; he was almoſt as much troubl'd at the manner, as at the thing; but yet at the arrivall of Vixores, and the Parthian Forces, he began to hope, 'twas out of too-much affection for Partheniſſa, and not of too-little for him, that he had ſaved my Prince, and therefore 'twas, he determin'd no longer to delay an execution which Surena could not well ſuſpend without wronging as much his Ambition, as his owne Love. But whilſt Merinzor was employing himſelf to obtain his deſignes, Artabbanes and Surena did their Healths, and Emilia by a ſeeming ſpye to the laſt of them, but a reall one to hir *Father*,

ther, had learn'd that Cloriman had only taken those two dayes respit for the sending for a faithfull *Priest*, but to purchase so much time for his unripe Treacherie. But (continu'd Symander) to hasten my relation, I will no more repleniſh it with any things but those so essentiall, that you shall be convinc'd, I am as much concern'd in the speedy finiſhing it, as my hearers can be. It was but half a Moon, after the Ryvalls recoveries, that one day walking in the Palace Gardens, a Captain of the Guards presented Surena with a Packet, which the better to read, leaving Partheniſſa with my *Prince*, he retyr'd himself into another walk, where opening the Letters, he found the first was directed to him from Merinzor, and contained these words:

Merinzor to the Prince Surena.

WEre not that esteem I pay you, built on a very firm foundation, by having so preserv'd one Enemy, you might have raiſ'd your self another, and it may be as dangerous a one as him you protected; Neither could I but conclude,

clude, if I consulted with reason, not Friendship, that I have a very considerable share in yours, since to confer on me the highest disobligation you are capable of, you use your self at that rate. Do not, I conjure you, break with your Friend, to preserve your Enemie, nor evidence how little I may expect from you, when to the obliging me, I only desire you to sit still, and cannot obtain it: I have sent those who will infallibly secure and revenge us, if by way of reparation, for having hither to hinder'd it, you do not undertake it your self; I hope you will not by neither acting, nor permitting this, give me so much reason to be your Enemie, that I must finde a Misfortune in the too much Justice of becoming so.

Surena having read this high Letter, open'd the other, and though it were without addres or name, yet by some private mark, he was not ignorant that it came from Merinzor's Secretarie, whom he had corrupted both by large Gifts and hopes; it contained these words:

YOu can no longer have Merinzor, and Arsabbanes your Friends, neither indeed can

you undertake to defend the latter from Death, but you will more than hazard participating in his Fate, by endeavouring to hinder it; for there are so many engaged in the Designe, that your desire of preventing it cannot be greater, than the impossibilitie: believe it Sir as a certain truth, that the first attempt you make for your Rivalls defence, will be your last, and that he which is Merinzor's Enemie, and he which endeavours to hinder his destruction, will be consider'd under one notion.

Partheniſſa, and Artabbanes (who concluded by Surena's leaving them alone, that what invited him to ſo unuſuall an action, had an unuſuall motive) did not walk away from the place he had left them in, but from thence had fixtly conſider'd his actions, and geſtures, as things in which they might discover his thoughts, which they found were very perplex'd, for having ended his two Letters, he walk'd three or four turns, then read them over again, & after the third time he had done the ſame, pulling down his Hat over his Eyes, and folding his Arms one within the other, he continu'd with as little out-

outward disquiet, as the inward was great. At length, after an hour so spent, he came again to the Princess and his Ryvall, and to the first of them presented his letters, telling hir withall, by whom the last was written, & that he had sent it in his Prince's Packet, as the least hazardous conveyance. Parthenissa whilst she was reading, both in hir looks and gesture, expresst no small disorder, and Surena as soon as she had ended, having receiv'd his Papers, saluted hir with as much humilitie, as sadness; and then went to the Garden Door, where his Guards expected him, and where he commanded their Captain immediately to seize upon Artabbanes, to carry him close prisoner to the Castle, & to keep him there in that Qualitie, 'till he received further orders; Surena having given him these Commands, went immediately to the Cittadell, whither he remov'd his lodgeings, and from whence he sent two hundred Souldiers to guard the Pallace, and to permit none either to enter into it, or to come out of it, without a Pass under his owne hand. The Captain who had receiv'd direction to make Artabbanes his Prisoner, being a Par-

thian, and consequently reverencing the high bloud of the Arsacides, came even in tears to do his dutie, and protested, he had much rather have lost his owne Libertie, than become the Instrument of depriving my Prince of his; who judging by Surena's abrupt departure, & by those of the Guards coming towards him, what their intentions were, went to his weeping Princess, and implor'd hir to support hir Faith on the many precedent deliverances the Gods had sent him; that Surena had so dearly purchas'd hir esteem, and so justly valu'd it, that it was improbable he would by any cryminall performance, destroy what was so long a perfecting; especially since his fall herein, would be like a Statesmans, which admits not of a second; He saw in his Looks a reluctancie to his action, and that he was too-much a Gentleman to be guided by considerations opposite to reason, and honor, or for the satisfaction of Merinzor's hopes, to ruine his owne: Artabbanes had further enlarg'd himself in consolations of this Qualitie, had he not perceiv'd, that alreadie Partheniſſa's colour began to abandon hir, as hir senses

did

did ſuddenly after, & by falling in his Arms ſeem'd to tell him, ſhe expected no conſolation but from Death: my *Prince* that had given hir hopes for his owne condition, could give himſelf none for hirs, which laſted not long in that extream, for by that time that he, Emilia, & I, had carry'd hir in our Arms to thoſe Stairs which lead to hir Appartment, hir breath, but not hir words, were come to hir again, ſo that Artabbanes by preſſing, and kiſſing hir hands, took, as we all thought, an eternall leave; and in whiſpers conjur'd Emilia to hinder hir *Princeſs*'s deſpair, from making hir the ſharer of his Fate, as ſhe had but too much bin of his Misfortunes. Emilia neither anſwer'd, nor indeed heard his requeſt, for all the faculties of hir Soul, had reſign'd themſelves to grief: My *Prince* having ſpoke thoſe few words, with a languiſhing look, took a ſecond farewell from his *Princeſs* (who by being then inſenſible, was more happie than if ſhe had bin otherwiſe) and going to the Guard, return'd them thanks for their Civilitie, and deſir'd them to do their Dutie. The Captain mov'd with ſo ſad a ſeparation, told him,

would to the Gods Sir I durſt, for then I ſhould carry you to Libertie, not to Priſon: whilſt this little diſcourſe paſt between them, I had repreſented to Emilia, that 'twas fit I ſhould wait on my Prince, and had obtain'd not only hir permiſſion, but commands to do it. 'Twas therefore that I came to the Captain, and deſir'd his leave for it, which he more readily granted, than my Prince, & accompany'd his Civilitie with this Proteſtation, that nothing which could be conducive to Artabbanes's ſatisfaction, and which was not poſitively forbiddē him, but ſhould ſtill finde the ſame return. By this time we were come to the Garden Gate, where we found a Charriot readie, into which my Prince made me follow him; the ſame Officers, and the ſame Guard, brought us to the Caſtle, which is a place as impregnable as Art, and Nature, can render any; the Appartment allotted for my generous Maſter, was very large, and magnificent, to ſupply his being deny'd the liberty of the Gardens; and finding he was to be a cloſe Priſoner, he commanded me to get a Pallate, and to lie in his Chamber, where he reſign'd himſelf to

ſo

so transcendent a grief, that I knew by the greatness of it, 'twas not for himself, but Partheniſſa, who Emilia told me afterwards, had aſſum'd a proportionate ſorrow, both for the quantitie, and the Cauſe. My Prince found nothing in his impriſonment, no not the very end in order to which it was, ſo intollerable, as the being deny'd the ſending to, and hearing from his Princeſs, who as ſoon as ſhe had learn'd, ſhe was under a reſembling misfortune, concluded Surena's deſigne was exceeding cryminall, ſince rather than permit hir to know his actions, he elected to give an exact Lover, the fears ſuch a relation unavoidably inſpires, and thereby contract a worſe opinion of him, than his very worſt performance could almoſt create. Ten dayes after Artabbanes's impriſonment (during which time, he never ſaw or ſpake with any, except the Captain of the Guards and me) finding ſo long a ſuſpence as bad as execution, he earneſtly conjur'd him to learn what Surena's intentions were, and if poſſibly, what his uſage was to Partheniſſa. The Captain promiſed to endeavour both, and about four hours after returnd,

turnd, but with a Countenance that spake his intelligence, before his words did; which acquainted my Prince, that for the last of his Commands, so strict a watch was kept in the Palace, that thereby all his endeavours therein, had bin fruitless; but as to the first of them, he came into Surena's Chamber, when some of Merinzor's Partizans, were disputing with him, not whether you should be put to Death, but of the way of it; he alleadging, that in regard of your Quality, especially in Media, you ought to have so much respect, as not to be a publick Spectacle on an infamous Scaffold, and that to execute you in your Chamber, would be of as much advantage, less scandalous, and more secure; for (the Captain continu'd) the Inhabitants of this Citie are so great Reverencers of either the Arsacian blond, or of Moneses's Familie, that Surena has sent for 1000 Parthian Horse out of his Brothers Armie, to keep Arsacia from Tumults, which he apprehends it will fall into, let the execution be never so private; on the other side, Merinzor's servants alleadged, that since you were the first Prince of the Bloud, the execution

ought

ought to be publick, that the Medians might be convinc'd of the reallitie of your Death, and thereby cut off their hopes, with your Life; for it has bin no unusuall thing from the obscure Death of *Princes*, to set up Counterfeits, which have prov'd as dangerous as the reall ones could; that it would look rather like a Murther, than an Execution, were it done in private; and that by so covert a proceeding, it might give the Arsacians an opinion we want either Iustice, or *Power*; the former will make them believe 'tis honest to relieve him, and the latter, that it is safe. Though (said the Captain) I heard the debate, yet I was commanded to withdraw when they were to form the result; but yet I learn'd that what ever it were, it would not be put in execution 'till the arrivall of the 1000 Parthian Horse, who are hourly expected. Any (continu'd Symander) that had heard this Relation, would have thought he that made it had spoken of himself, not of my *Prince*, who found more satisfaction in learning his destinie, than trouble in learning 'twas so fatall a one; and doubtless, had not his just apprehensiõs of the fair *Parthe-*

nissa's despair, or at least excessive grief, ty'd his hands, he had by one generous stroak, exempted himself from the infamie of dying on a Scaffold, or composing a publick Trophie for his Enemies; but that Partheniſſa might be convinc'd his Life was dear to him, since it was to hir, he determin'd, if it were his fortune to be put to Death, not to act it himself, that she might not condemn, but deplore his Fall. To the Captain he gave such eloquent and admirable consolations, that he went away full of satisfaction, but I cannot say whether it proceeded from an assurance, he thereby received of his going into a better world, or that the brightness of his virtues render'd him any longer unfit for this. We had not bin two hours alone, when we heard all the Streets of Arsacia eccho with Trumpets, which we knew proceeded from the arrivall of the Parthian Horse, who were immediately distributed into severall advantagious Posts in the Citie, the better to suppress all disorders. Artabbanes was advertis'd of this by his former Intelligencer, who told him withall, that a Scaffold was erected before the Palace-window,

dow, and though ſome ſaid it was for his execution, and that *Partheniſſa* might be a Witneſs of it, yet he had bin aſſur'd in private, the execution ſhould be ſo, and that the Scaffold being raiſ'd there, was but the more artificially to delude the People; and that Surena's opinion of doing the buſineſs obſcurely, had at length bin aſſented to. My *Prince* was a little ſurpriz'd at the firſt part of this intelligence, not upon his own ſcoar, but on his *Princeſs's*, whoſe grief, and deſpair, he apprehended would receive no little acceſſion, by becoming a Witneſs, or a hearer of his ſuffering; neither could he in ſo ſad an exigent have told how to have behav'd himſelf; for if he had dy'd without emotions, as on the one ſide it had eclipſ'd his Enemies revenge, ſo on the other it had done the ſame to the evincement of his reſentments for ſo ſad, and fatall a deprivation, and ſhould he manifeſt the latter, he could not but have contributed to a ſatisfaction, the greatneſs of which would have proportionately created his own trouble; but the Captain's aſſurance was ſo probable, that he believ'd it, for though he eſteem'd Surena

would be vindicative, yet, he could not think he would be barbarously so. The Commander of the Guards knowing how little Time Artabbanes had left, thought it unfit by his Company, to rob him of any part of it, and therefore withdrew himself, but he made me a signe to follow him into the next room, which I did, where he told me, that for certain the following Night was destin'd for my Prince's Death, and that he had declin'd acquainting him with it himself, as believing it an information fitter for my discovering; I had only words enough to thank his care, for my grief stifl'd the rest in the very birth. My generous Master at my return into the Chamber, knew some new Misfortune was come to my knowledge, and constrain'd me, though in as many sighes, as words, to acquaint him with it, which I did, & which I had no sooner done, than he only told me, I had obligingly deluded him, since by the excess of my sorrow, he thought I had assum'd it for some fresh danger of the Princess's. Whilst things were in this Posture in the Castle, those in the Palace were in as sad a one; for Parthéniſſa's ignorãce of my Prince's con-

condition was more deplorable to hir, than the knowledge of it was to him, she expected every minute the Messenger of hir Death in the messenger of his; & hir affection was so high, and perfect, that it needed not the help of hir resolution, to follow his Fate; & though Emilia gave hir very pregnant consolations, yet they were too weak for so strong a Melancholly, which necessitated hir to keep hir Bed, whereby she was ignorant of that fatall Theater, which was erecting within sight of hir Window, out of which Emilia unfortunatly looking, discover'd it, & in the consequences that sight inspir'd hir with, she fell into a fainting; the noyse of hir fall, made the Princess look what was the cause of it, which when she had discover'd, she call'd some of the Servants to hir assistance, which proved so effectuall, that it gave hir strength enough to tell Partheniſſa, what depriv'd hir absolutely of hirs; Emilia soon repented what she had said, and had much more cause to do so, when after an hours Tryall of hir prescriptions for ending a swound, she found them all fruitless; but Nature at length did what Art could not, &

the first signe the Princess gave of hir recovery, was a signe of hir affection to my Prince, of whose condition she pressingly askt the ignorant hearers; their silence was not ascrib'd to that Cause, but to a more dangerous one, out of which faith Emilia remov'd hir, by protesting, they knew nothing of what she demanded, neither of the cause of erecting the Scaffold, which none of those were about it could tell; & therein she spoke the Truth, for though she often askt out of the Window for what end those Men were set a work, yet she could never learn it. Attabbanes in the mean time had taken me into a Closet contiguous to his Chamber, where by the pressingst conjurations he was capable of, he enjoyn'd me not to give him so pregnant an evincement of my disaffection to him, as to deplore his going to a better place; That I would concern'dly endeavour to console the fair *Partheniſſa* for the like Grief, on the same cause, and that whilst she would doe me the honor of retaining me neat hir Person, that I would not decline it. 'Twas only in Tears that I answer'd these impossible Commands, and if he thought I pro-

promis'd to obſerve them, he deriv'd that belief from my ſilence, not me. The hour of reſt being come, Artabbanes lay'd himſelf down on his Bed, with as little disorder, as if he had bin as near his ordinary, as eternall ſleep; only the fair Name of Partheniſſa ſtole ſometimes out of his mouth, but never unaccompany'd with ſome ſighes, to demonſtrate for whom he breath'd them: Oh Gods! (ſaid Symander) it were almoſt as hard to deſcribe the fears I was in that fatall Night, as to believe how free my Prince was from any; who about the dawn of Day was awakened by the noyſe of ſome who open'd the Doors, & Gueſſing at their deſigne by what I had acquainted him with, he roſe up and told me, come Symander we muſt part, but this one Teſtimony of my Enemyes Power, & Malice, will eternally free me from reſenting another; let the rememberance of ſo high an advantage extingniſhall repinings the purchaſe of it may inſpire: Doe me too, I conjure thee, this laſt obligation, as to tell my Princeſs, I dy'd with Partheniſſa in my Mouth, and that my breath expir'd in repeating the fair name of hir, for whom only

I drew it. These words were hardly spoken, when Surena (waited on by some of his Guards) came into the Chamber, whom he commanded out again, and then came to my *Prince* and told him: Artabbanes, I must acknowledge I have twice receiv'd my Life at your hands; the first when you had taken from me the Victory; and the second when you had taken from me what I valu'd a thousand times more; & though some have represented to me, that the former proceeded from your Revenge, and the latter from your Ignorance; yet I hold it fit to make my acknowledgement the giving you both your Life, and Liberty; I am confin'd unto this, if that information be true, by the dictates of virtue; and if false, by those of gratitude; I know you are not only my *Ryvall*, but even successfully so; and I know how vast a prejudice this will bring both to my *Passion*, and my Affaires; I tell you thus much that you may be convinc'd I am not ignorant of what I doe; & I tell you no more, lest I might lessen the merit of the action, by repeating it. Great Gods! (continu'd Symander) you only know my joy at so unheard-of a Gallan-

Gallantry, and you doe consequently know that it was greater than his, on whom it was conferr'd. The time, & the strangeness of the thing, made me suspect I did dream, but it was so pleasing a one, that I apprehended the doing of any thing which might tell me whether I did so, or noe; I esteem'd it too-great to be reall, yet was loath to interrupt what gave me more satisfaction, than ever any reciev'd in that which is the foundation of dreams. You will pardon (said the fathfull Servant, to Artavasdes and Callimmachus) my transports, when you remember what gives them a being; but not to need your pardon a second time, I will break off what I hope has made me as much deserve, as need it. Artabbanes, as soon as Surena had done speaking, with a look which seem'd to be as much pleas'd with the manner of the obligation, as with the obligation it self, told his *Ryvall*; Surena is too-generous to give me my Life, and Liberty, therby to confine me from employing either in a Service, for which only they are considerable to me; if that were to be my Ransome, 'twere such a one, as I would never pay; for 'tis a

more pleasing Fate to dye for the fair Partheniſia, than to purchaſe my Life at the rate of being ty'd from ſerving hir. I ſpeak this (ſaid my Prince) not that I have ſo low an opinion of Surena, as to believe he is capable of ſelling a generous performance at any price; or that he could think I would buy it ſo, but only that thoſe who hereafter underſtanding from whom I derive my Life, & Liberty, and how I employ them, may not condemn my ſo doing, ſince I declare when I am in your Power, what I intend when I am out of it; 'tis no ill payment to acquaint you, I can make you none, ſince thereby I publiſh the belief I have of your virtue, whoſe higheſt operation is to confer obligations not only where there is no hopes of a return, but even where there is a certainty of none; my condition makes me more gratefull, than any other way my fancy could, & were I to judge who has the happieſt ſhare in this performance, I ſhould conclude, the Giver has. In what I do (reply'd Surena) I never expected ſo much as I have already receiv'd; to have made what you mention'd the purchaſe of my performance, had not bin to have

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given your Life, and liberty to you, but to me; no Artabbanes, if I confine you unto any thing, it is only to believe my action is as free from deſigne, as it is; & if to that obligation you will add this other, of excuſing my diſputing Partheniſſa with the Arms of Honor, as I will not diſreliſh your doing the like, I ſhall receive a ſatisfaction, my condition any other way cannot affoard me. Your performance (ſaid my Prince) cannot be more generous than I believe it, & what you mention, ſhould be rather my deſire, than my grant; and if in it I reſent any trouble, it proceeds from a latitude I thence receive, of drawing my Sword againſt one, for whom, when Partheniſſa comes not in competition, I would as joyfully employ it, as for him. Theſe Ryvalls (ſaid Symander) by ſeverall paſſages of this quality, gave each other but too-pregnant evincements how unfortunate they were in being ſo, and ſpent ſo much time in this employment, that the Sun found them in it. Artabbanes, doubtleſs, had interrupted it ſooner to begg a permiſſion of kiſſing his princeſs's hands before his departure, had he not apprehended, his Ryvall

vall would have eſteem'd the increaſing of obligations, an uncivill way of paying them. Surena, who it may be knew my Prince's impatiences by his own (for he had bin as long depriv'd of ſeeing Partheniſſa as Artabbanes had bin, and knew how unwelcome his viſits would prove, did not he accompany him in them) made that overture to my generous Maſter, which he would not to him; The tranſports in which he receiv'd it, were much greater than thoſe with which he receiv'd the late gift of Surèa's, which evidéc'd he was more concern'd in his Paſſion, than in his Liberty and Life; which it may be invited Surena to commend, what he diſlik'd. Artabbanes ſuddenly after, went out of the Caſtle with Surena, and in a Charriot from thence to the Pallace, where he ſent in a Page to Partheniſſa's Appartment, to beg the honor of ſeeing hir: She was much ſurpriz'd at the requeſt, but much more when having granted it, ſhe found hir fears ſo obligingly deluded; Surena, whilſt hir joy confin'd hir to ſilence, broke his own, by telling hir; If Madam, I have bin ſeemingly faulty, 'twas only to avoyd being really ſo; and if I have hitherto

hitherto occaſion'd your hate, 'twas but to avoyde deſerving it; I was, Madam, by Merinzor's Partizans, ſo narrowly obſerv'd, and ſo much over-power'd, that had they but ſuſpected my deſigne, they had both puniſh'd, & prevented it; you cannot doubt but to counterfeit was abſolutly neceſſary, when I made your ſufferings, my disguiſe; I know that you were too-too-much concern'd in Artabbães's ſafety, to let you know I reſolv'd it; That might have prov'd too-dangerous a discoverie, and your not being ſad-enough, might have given you cauſe to have bin ſo; but as ſoon as I procur'd a power to reſiſt Merinzor's, I acted that which only the want of it has hitherto hinder'd; and I was neceſſitated to ſecure the happy Artabbanes's libertie, with that with which I pretended to ſecure his Execution; Yes fair Parthenisſa, ſuch power the Gods have given you over me, that when my ſatisfaction, & yours, come in competition, I conſider the loſs of the firſt, to be the acting of the laſt, & finde I cannot quarrell with them for rendering me unfortunate, ſince thereby they make me preſerve you from becoming ſo; but (Madam)

dam) I am too-injurious to intrench on that little time your Artabbanes has to entertain you in, which that he may the more unconstrainedly, I shall leave him to a libertie, I believe you do as much desire, as he. Surena having ended speaking, withdrew himself, & that so suddenly, that Partheniſſa in the operations of hir joy and wonder, could make no returns to him that had created them; but when that eloquent silence was expir'd, she told my Prince; Surena may attribute that to one civilitie, which I consider as intended to another; for the pretence of his withdrawing, was to give us the libertie of discourse; but I believe the reall cause, is, that he knew mine (if he had stay'd to hear it) would have come as short of what it ought to be, as this performance excells all his others: But Artabbanes who knew how little time was allotted him, and how much was allotted Surena, acquainted his Princess with all those particulars I have so largely deduced, and magnify'd his Ryvalls Gallantrie, in terms, which resented their Truth, in their delivery. This just dutie being finish'd, he told hir; This (Madam) is the first time that I thought

thought I could leave you without regreet, the hopes, that by going from you now, I ſhall be the ſooner uncapable of repeating the like misfortune, is my conſolation in it, neither can you doubt your deliverance is leſs my ambition, than dutie, when in order to the acting of it, I can without reluctancie employ my Life and libertie, againſt the Beſtower of them. The world muſt be convinc'd your freedome is more dear unto me, than both thoſe, by making it a higher conſideration; yet in that action of ingratitude, I ſhall evidence my ſelf gratefull, by proving I decline the leſſer obligation, but to ſatisfie the greater. Alas (ſaid the Princeſs) are you ſo low reduc'd, that an act of unkindneſs muſt be an argument of your Love? muſt I endure a reall misfortune, for an imaginary good? when I conſider thoſe innumerable dangers my condition will engage you in, and thoſe many more which your Courage and impatience will, I could eſteem Surena more obliging, if he were leſs; and if he converted your libertie into an impriſonment, my trouble then would extend but to pitie, now it does to fear, it may be to

deſpair;

deſpair; believe me, my Artabbanes, I finde more ſubject for ſorrow in the way you undertake my Libertie, than if I had eternally loſt it; that misfortune would but relate to Partheniſſa, but the other does to Artabbanes, who is much more pretious to him, than ſhe is to him ſelf. Ah Madam! (my Prince reply'd) can you then believe whilſt I have an exiſtence, that your perpetuall impriſonment would but relate unto your ſelf? and can you think the Gods have ſo miraculouſly given me the power to uſe my ſword, to render the Will a Sin; no my Princeſs, theſe ſtrange and intricate obſtructions, are not to ſuppreſs, but trie our Faith; neither can we think them what they are, and believe we ſhall continue as we are; I go with a belief of ſucceſs proportionate to my deſire of it, and if I have any doubts, 'tis not of your deliverance, but that I may be thought unworthy the acting it; if I be, I will find my *Martyrdome* where I expect my *Felicitie*, and die in that ſervice, in which I ambition'd to live. Theſe words made *Partheniſſa* look pale, & drew ſome Tears into his Eyes, which to take him from conſidering, ſhe reply'd; If

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the Gods ſhould eſteem Artabbanes unworthy the title of my Deliverer, I will aſſume it my ſelf; my hand ſhall act my liberty, if in ſo fatall a way it be deny'd to his; *Doe* not think I ſhall need any invitation to follow you, but the knowing you are gone before, & therefore flatter not your ſelf with a belief, that the breaking my impriſonment can be reſerved for any other, for 'tis like my inclinations, and conſequently entirely for Artabbanes. Madam (ſaid my Prince) I conſider not this declaration is to make me leſs hazardous in your ſervice, but to invite the Gods that I may perform it; I have now an internall aſſurance of that Bleſſing, for ſince your Liberty cannot be acted but by me, & ſince not to have it acted were too great a Sin to be believ'd, I muſt be as confident of the way, as of the end; 'Twas above half an hour (continu'd Symander) that theſe generous Lovers entertain'd themſelves in reſembling diſcourſes, which had not ſo ſoon receiv'd a period, but that they conſider'd Surèa was in an anti-Chamber expecting their ſeparation, which was ſo paſſionate, and ſad, that the relation of it, would rather prove

your trouble, than the omiſſion. My Prince in the ſame Room he found his Ryvall in, would there have taken leave of him; but he did not permit it, and accompany'd him to a Paſs ſome Twenty Furlongs from Arſacia, leſt the Treachery of Merinzor's Partizans, might have render'd that place the Scene of a Tragedy, he was ſo concern'd to prevent. After many Embraces, and Civilities, Artabbanes told his Ryvall; If the employing my Life, and Liberty againſt the generous Surena for Partheniſſa, may be excus'd, by my employing them for him, where hir ſervice comes not in competition, I dare truly profeſs, I ſhall deſerve to be ſo; For I will out of Gratitude, repeat dangers as high, as thoſe obligations which confine me to mine; neither can I but be convinc'd by what you do to Partheniſſa, of what you will doe to Artabbanes; for your Paſſion makes you think it fit (at leaſt pardonable) to act againſt your Inclination; and your Love for the Princeſs, makes you doe things, which might evē call that Love in queſtion, did not the knowledge of the cauſe, ſeemingly appologize for the effect; That Adoration I have for the fair

Partheniſſa

Partheniſſa, has the ſame production in me: I know, I ſhould give you that Life, & Liberty I receive from you, but I have no concerns above my flame, and the inſpirer of it, that which cauſes my fault, does yours; neither can you conſider what I muſt doe in the future, but if you reflect upon what you doe at the preſent, you will acknowledge, we are both innocent, or both excuſable. This is all (continu'd my Prince) that I beg of Surena, unleſs it be to furniſh me with an occaſion of ſerving him, though as full of danger as my reſolution is of contemning all, which may evidence a gratitude, whoſe greatneſs hardly knows any thing equall, but my deſires of manifeſting it. Surena was ready to give my Prince a reply, when about 200 Horſe came a full Trot towards the Ryvalls, as they were in each others Arms; This unexpected accident broke off their Civilities, and made them gallop to the head of a hundred Parthian Horſe, who were Surena's Guard; his Servants & ſome of my Prince's (for then I was not come up, having ſtay'd ſome time to kiſs the fair Emilia's hands, & to ſettle a courſe for a future Correſponden-

cy) made themselves a reserve to this little Body, which resolutely advanc'd to give those a Charge who were coming precipitatly to give them one; Surena as they march'd, told Artabbanes, I have too good an opinion of you and of my self, to think it fit to give you an assurance that I am innocent of this Infidelity; but if what I have done, has not rais'd in you that belief, what I am going to doe, will. My Prince had only leasure to tell him, that what he had really done, was of so clear a quality, that what he was now going to doe would not justifie, but increase his obligations; For the Enemy was come so near, that one of those Two which lead them, cry'd out, 'Tis not Surena, but Artabbanes we seek; To which Surena reply'd; Trayter, in seeking the one thou seekest both, & in attempting the one thou shalt find the Revenge, or act the Death of both; & thereupon piercing like Thunder through a Battalion of the Enemies, he made so large a Passage for those which follow'd him, that they found it as easie, as others found it strange; My Prince made a proportionate charge, for the resolution and

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the ſucceſs; and twice that day ſaved a Life, which had not bin hazarded but for him, nor preſerv'd but by him: The inequalitie of the numbers render'd the Diſpute equal, but by my continuing behind to kiſs the fair Emilia's hands, I had weaken'd our Party of a ſmall force, on whoſe arrivall with me, the Enemie that were then wavering, fled, and found that death in their Flight, which they had endeavour'd to avoyd by it. The Two generous Friends & Ryvalls celebrated their victorie, and deliverance, by many embraces, which were given with ſo good grace, that it created a generall Quarrell to Fortune, for having ſo long deferr'd it, & which in the future was to break it again: One would have gueſt by my Prince's retributions, that his Life had bin pretious to him; but thoſe that knew Parthenissa was in Surena's hands, knew withall, that it was to his Gallantrie, not his own ſafetie, that he payd them. I amuſe not my ſelf to particularize thoſe ſignall expreſſions, thoſe two generous Enemies made one another before their ſeparation, which was perform'd by either's contracting too good an opinion of his Ryvall,

vall, for their unfortunate condition: But Surena's was at leaſt ſilenc'd, if not ſuppreſt, by his return that Day to Partheniſſa, to whom my *Prince* by a private *Meſſenger*, gave ſo ample, and handſome an accompt of that Dayes proceeding, that his reception reliſh'd more of having aſſum'd Artabbanes's felicitie, than of having bin his *Protector*; and his ignorance from whence ſo obliging an uſage was deriv'd, inſpir'd him with hopes, which could not have a more flattering, than falſe foundation. My Prince in the mean time, with a Guard Surena had forc'd him to take for his Defence, continu'd his journey by a haſtie Travell towards Chriſapolis, where he heard Zenophon was leavying Forces to relieve his King, and to bring the Fate of *Media* to a more equall diſpute, than Tygranes's precipitation had already allow'd it. Artabbanes was no ſooner arriv'd at Chriſapolis, than he diſcharg'd Surena's Convoy, with rewards more proportionate to the Giver, than Receivers. He made his entrie into the Citie by Night, only waited upon by me; and having taken up a retyr'd lodging, enquir'd of the Maſter of

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it, the News that was then ſtirring, who told him, That Zenophon, but ſix dayes before, had receiv'd an expreſs from Tygranes, which told him, their chiefeſt Magazine of victuals in Ecbatan, had bin deſtroy'd by a Traytor that had the Care of it, which had reduc'd him to ſuch extremitie, that if not immediately relieved, his hopes were not to live, but die a *King*; that he deſpair'd not but by a ſmall acceſſionall relief, to revenge his former disgrace, in the ſame place in which it had befallen him, and that therefore Zenophon, with whatever Force he could make on the place, ſhould advance by inceſſant Marches towards Ecbatan. This was ſo true and preſſing an Intelligence, that Zenophon having formerly appointed a generall Rendezvous, too-late for this Neceſſitie, took of his Army, about 8000 Horſe and Foot, which were the neareſt, and readieſt Forces, & with thoſe, two dayes ſince, advanced to the relief of his *King*, having left order that the reſidue ſhould follow with an expedition, which might evidence the cauſe from whence it proceeded. My *Prince* was very Penſive at this information, and much

much more ſorrie the deſtinie of Media ſhould be decided without him, he being in it. Whilſt he was engag'd in ſuch Thoughts, mine were employ'd how to remove their cauſe, and at laſt reſolving that in ſo emergent a Neceſſitie, he ought publickly to avow himſelf, to ſee what influence Meneſes's bloud had over the Medians, and to have Arms in his hands, to oppoſe Merinzor, ſhould the Gods make him the Inſtrument of puniſhing Tygranes's Ingratitude to my Prince's Father; as alſo to diſpute Partheniſſa with Surena, with more equall Arms than thoſe by which he had loſt hir: I concluded too, that Zenophon would not intruſt ſo conſiderable a concern as Chriſapolis into any hands, but thoſe, whoſe inclinations he was as confident of, as of his own; and therefore Artabbanes ought not to apprehend the diſcloſing himſelf to the Governor of it, and to Head thoſe Forces which were embodying, as Seconds to Zenophon's flying Army. Theſe reaſons were ſo pregnant to me, that I acquainted my generous Maſter with them, to whom they appear'd the ſame, and who therefore immediately command-

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ed me to invite the Governor to give him a visit, which he would have then pay'd him, had he not esteem'd it fitter to receive his advice in private, than go and perhaps render himself uncapable of observing it, by desiring it first in publick. I went with joy to obey these orders, & being without much difficulty admitted into the Governors Chamber, I drew him aside, and told him the cause of my doing so. He receiv'd the Intelligence with great astonishment, but I soon found, his was deriv'd from an obliging, not a dangerous Cause, for 'twas in eloquent, and passionate returns, that he thank'd the Gods for sending, and me for bringing him such Newes; he went therefore (follow'd by all the Gentlemen & Officers then about him) to my Prince's Lodging, but by the way, the Flame being diffus'd over the City, there was hardly any in it, but those that waited on the Governor, or that went upon the same employment. I purposely omit the exceeding deep submissions, and the proportionate acclamations, this throng of Friends made my Prince, & utter'd for his return. The Governor (an old and unalterable Friend to

Moneſes and his Family) told him; The Gods Sir, have doubtleſs reduced this Kingdome to ſo low an ebb, to evidence your reſtauration was of more concernment than the Quiet of it, ſince they have depriv'd it of the laſt, to act the firſt; and it is more than probable, that they will acquaint us 'twas your abſence involv'd us in Wars, by making your return give a period to them; we are therefore come, Sir, to offer you our Swords, & Lives, which we doubt not under ſuch a Generall, will vanquiſh greater obſtacles than your Courage will now encounter; which has already acted too many things, to leave us the leaſt pretence of doubt, it is uncapable of performing any. Artabbães in words, and actions, altogether ſenſible, and obliging, made them finde their affection, and Civilities, were not unfruitfully placed; & to let them know he ambition'd nothing more than to engage his Life in that Countrey, in which he found ſo many willing to adventure theirs with him; as alſo to give Merinzor's firſt infuſions the lye, in a way, which alſo ſhould puniſh it; he conjur'd them, that the next Morning, all ſuch forces

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of Horſe as they thought fit to honor him with, and as could be rendevouz'd by then, might be ſo, with which he deſpair'd not to overtake Zenophon, and to ſhare in his Countryes Fate. The Governor immediatly commanded all the Officers to ſee thoſe orders obey'd, and in the future, to receive theirs from Artabbanes, who that Night he permitted not to cõtinue in thoſe Lodgings, but brought him to the Caſtle, where his reception ſpoke the heart; with which it was made. The Sun the next morning was not riſen, when all the Streets of Chriſapolis ecchoʼd with the noiſe of Trumpets, & Clarions, and not above an hour after, a great Plain on the North ſide of the City, was coverʼd with 3000 Horſe, whereof a Third Part, were Volunteers, which the only Name of Artabbanes drew under his Colours; The other two Parts were of ſuch as had bin drawn together by Zenophon's orders before his haſty depart: The Body (though ſmall) was not unconſiderable, having my Prince at the head of it; and this they were all ſo ſenſible of, that Artabbanes found they were ſo by their very looks. After a ſhort Speech, ra-

ther to let them know he knew their resolution, than to raise it, he embraced the Governor, whose Age dispenc'd him from the Field, & began his March towards Ecbatan; Three dayes with wonderfull celerity he follow'd the traces of Zenophon's Army, without overtaking it; but the Fourth, from the high mountain of Dormus, he discover'd afar off, the Walls of Ecbatan; that sight refresh'd his almost wearied Troops, & made them so to accelerate their pace, that before the Sun was five hours from his Set, they were come near enough to perceive both Armies were joyn'd, and were disputing their hopes, and desires by the Sword; on which they were so intent, that his arrivall, not his little Armies salluting their Friends by a shout, and their Enemies by a menacing Crie, could not in the least measure so much as suspend, or lessen the fury of either side. My Prince was much more pleas'd with the resolution of his friends, than with their number, which with the addition of his Forces, did not equall the one half of the Enemies, whose multitudes he observ'd were so long hinder'd from prevailing, by a

gentleman

Gentleman in blue Arms, whoſe Helmet was ſhadowed with a Plume of Feathers of the ſame colour. This generous Warrior carried victorie to his ſide where ever he was, but his friends loſt it where ever he was not; ſo that not being ubiquitary, the Armenian Royall-Armie was giving ground, before my Prince could joyn it. I deſign'dly paſs over the particulars of this great Day, to tell you the concluſion of it, which was, that though Artabbanes, did like Artabbanes both in courage and conduct, yet by the fall of the Gentleman in blue Armor, and by being neceſſitated twice to ſave the King of Media's Life, & remount him, it was almoſt dark, before the Gods had put a period to the Battell, & he to the Execution; in which the Traytor Merinzor fell, and above 20000 of his ſide, ſo that my Prince's Revenge, and his Victorie, were both concluded in one action; ſuch ſignall events could not but produce reſembling joyes in him, who return'd from the Purſuit with his victorious Troops, to preſent them, and himſelf to Tygranes, whoſe Tent he found inviron'd with Tears, inſtead of acclamations, which

was occaſion'd by a fatall wound the King, at the concluſion of the Day, had receiv'd by an Arrow ſhot at random; Artabbanes (by an exceſs of generoſitie) at the newes, aſſum'd a grief as reall, as great; and learning the faithfull Zenophon was by Tygranes, he went without any interruption where he lay: The King (though extream ill, no ſooner ſaw my Prince's Arms, than he cry'd out, 'Tis to that generous Perſon that I owe twice a Life, which the Gods are reſolv'd no longer to lend me; but I deſire that the laſt action of it, may be to embrace and acknowledge my Deliverer. Artabbanes at theſe obliging words, pull'd off his Helmet, and Zenophon no ſooner ſaw his Face, than he cry'd out; 'Tis Artabbanes, 'tis Artabbanes: Who proſtrating himſelf before his King, told him, The Gods (Sir) are my witneſſes, that I had long ſince the ambition to pay you thoſe ſervices, which you are now pleaſed ſo much to over-value, had not the Traytor Merinzor, by falſe ſuggeſtions brought you into ſo great a diffidence of that Truth, that the Danger of coming to manifeſt it, was almoſt as great, as were my deſires to do it;

but

but thoſe *Powers* which vindicate Innocence, have at length brought Merinzor to that Fate, he would have impoſ'd on Moneſes, and have made one a Contributer to that Juſtice, which has hitherto ſuffer'd, by his having occaſion'd the ſuſpending of yours. This free, and generous declaration, made Tygranes believe 'twas my Prince, as much as Zenophon's naming him; for he had never known him, but by that Character the faithfull Zenophon had given of his *Perſon*, and Minde. Tygranes, who found the hand of Death upon him, believ'd he could not more excuſe the Crimes of his Life, than to ſilence that hatred which had bin the higheſt offence in it, was beginning to manifeſt a Converſion which had nothing of imperfection in it, but that it had not earlier ſhined, when ſome Gentlemen brought in one into the *Kings* Tent (for there was never a one ſet up but his, neither had that bin, but for the danger of carrying him to Ecbatan) who though almoſt cover'd with bloud, yet ſome internalls diſcloſ'd, that his Arms, before they had bin ſo fatally ſtain'd, were of Azure, which made Artabbanes not only know

know'twas that gallant Man, the want of whose assistance had so long suspended his victorie, but deplore his loss, at a rate which even countervail'd his success. These were the dictates his inclinations to generositie inspir'd him with, but as soon as the wounded Gentlemans Helmet was taken off, he saw in his dying looks the charming features of the Prince Syllaces; Oh Gods! what did not my afflicted Master utter at so sad a sight; without so much as considering Tygranes (whose Tears were so obliging, as a while to interpose between his sight and the object which created them) he fell on his generous friend, and expresst by Groans, when his words fail'd him, such signall, and pressing sorrows, that it even divided those of the spectators, and made them think him as just an object for their Grief, as he had esteem'd his friend, for his: I will not determine whether the Aire which Syllaces receiv'd by the opening of his Helmet, or Artabbanes's tormenting him, or the Mercy of the Gods, who thought it unjust to separate two so exactly united, that restor'd the generous Prince to Life; but this is most certain, that before the

Chy-

Chyrurgions had given him a Cordiall, he was almoſt in a condition not to need one; and had bin entirely ſo, if after having a while faintly opened his Eyes, & diſcover'd Artabbanes, he had not embraced him ſo paſſionatly (fearing perhaps never to doe it again) that allhis wounds opened, and by a ſecond floud of Bloud, caſt him into a ſecond fainting. Tygranes, whether out of ſympathy, or a precedent weakneſs, fell into the ſame condition, which ſo divided the care, & Tears of all that were preſent, that never any Victory was eſteem'd ſo dearly purchac'd, or ſo ill celebrated. It was about half an hour before the Chyrurgions brought either the King or Sillaces to that Life which had ſeemingly abandon'd them; but the laſt of them return'd to it much ſooner than the firſt, for his wounds were of a far leſs dangerous nature, and being bound up, as alſo forbidden any more ſuch unfortunate Demonſtrations of his Friendſhip, as his late embraces had prov'd, he began to ask of Artabbanes, his Adventures; but in ſo confuſed a way, that the disorder could not be greater, than his concernd in them thereby appear'd: The

ones curiosity, & the others obedience, were a time suspended by Tygranes's temporary recovery, this was but a Lightning before Death, which made such violent, and rude approches, that he needed not the Chyrurgions Art to learn his Fate; which he first told the two friends of, and that with a constancy, which equal'd their sorrows. The generous Sillaces, whether as a Freind to my Prince, or Tygranes, so successfully made the latter sensible of the wrong he had done Moneses & his whole Family, that he seem'd more afflicted for that, than for his present condition, which receiv'd no small refreshment by Artabbanes protesting he was extreamly afflicted, that his first Service should be his last, & that he would wrong Moneses more than he ever had, if he believ'd not to have found out his mistake, was the greatest reparation he ever expected for it. Tygranes confused with many such flattering expressions, publiquely declared, Moneses was his legitimate Successor, & Artabbanes after him, which was received with more joy, than there were open expressions of it; Then turning a languishing Look towards Sillaces

Sillaces, he told him. And you generous Prince, cannot you furniſh me with ſome occaſion before my Death, to evidence the eſteem I have of your Friendſhip, and of thoſe ſignall obligations you have conferr'd on me? Sillaces was ſo ſtruck at that fatall Queſtion, that he had not the power to make it any return; which Tygranes obſerving, he cõmanded all in the Tent but my Prince, and Zenophon, to leave it, which being obey'd, addreſſing his diſcourſe to my generous Maſters friend, told him; It was with no ſmall ſatisfaction, that I learn'd one of my bloud could captivate Sillaces; though I have ſeem'd ignorant of your affairs, yet I am not ſo much a Stranger to them, but that I know Lindadory is honor'd with a paſſion you have for hir, and hir Father has declyn'd making hir the reward of it, upon conſiderations, which will more extenuate my uſage towards him, than any thing I can ſay in my own juſtification; I conjure you therefore (Tygranes continu'd, ſpeaking to Artabbanes) that you let your Father know my laſt requeſt, which I even deliver with my dying breath, is, that your Siſter, may be al-

lowed the liberty of his own election, and that he may not be entierly disprovided of what is requisite for the maintaining of both their Qualities, I hereby confer on Sillaces, all the false Merinzors forfeited Estates, & the Estates of all those who have adhær'd to him; Had the Gods bin pleas'd to have given me the fair Lindadory, I would thus have given hir: Moneses cannot suspect a Councell I would my self have practic'd, and in which he will receive as much satisfaction, as I should, were I confident he would observe my desires. The generous Sillaces at the end of these words, would have flung himself at Tygranes Feet, as some expression of his satisfaction, which could hardly exceed the Kings, when Artabbanes assur'd him in Moneses Name of an exact obedience to his Commands; Never was there a Tent at once so repleniſh'd, with Tears, and joy, as this; and perhaps never was there more cause for either. It seems the Gods had protracted the King of Media's Life, that the expiration of it, might repair the faults in it; for, some two hours after, he dyed, in discourses so constant, that the manner of his Death,

Death, consol'd the Beholders of it. Artabbanes and Sillaces having given their Tears to so great a fall, Zenophon took care to have *Moneses* proclaimed King throughout the Armie, and Citie, which was receiv'd with acclamations so loud, that in the largeness of them, there was evidenc'd a proportionate joy. The Funeralls of Tygranes were the next day celebrated with a Military pomp, his bodie being afterwards interr'd in the Tomb of his Fathers, over which my *Prince* erected so proud a *Monument*, that his goodness was known, in his *Magnificence*. Whilst these requisite duties were paying, Sillaces's recovery was so much advanc'd, that the doubt of it was no longer Artabbanes's fear, who every day with Zenophon, acknowledg'd him the Protector of Media, and restorer of Moneses, who by a solemn Embassie, was invited from a Solitude to a Crown, the greatest and least extreams. Neither did Artabbanes omit the Gallantrie of his Friend, nor Tygranes's last request for him, and his engagement on it. Things of a Civill concernment put into this posture, the forming of a consi-

derable Army, was my Prince's next care; which he was more troubl'd how to employ, than how to raiſe; For his Intereſt, and the many Peoples hopes which depended on him, and ſerved under him, were very rationall inducements immediately to march & cut off the Roots of ſo dangerous, and ſo near extinguiſh'd a Rebellion; but the going to attempt Arſacia, and to force Partheniſſa from Surena, were more powerfull inducements to flie with his Armie to ſo glorious, and ambition'd a Deſigne; for the undertaking of which, he fortified his inclinations with theſe Reaſons; That no conſideration ſhould tranſcend that of a generous and fruitfull Flame; That an occaſion of Conquering a Kingdome might every day be offer'd, but that of releaſing the fair Partheniſſa ſeldom or never; who could not be more troubl'd at the cauſe of the continuance of hir ſufferings, than at the ſufferings themſelves, and that thereby he would more injure hir, than Surena had; That entirely to extinguiſh the Rebellion, there needed not a War, but a Progreſs over the Kingdome; That Zenophon, with ſuch Forces

as

as the joy of this Change would draw under his Colours, would be more than ſufficient to finiſh what was ſo far advanc'd; and that by the dictates of Reaſon, as well as Love, he ought to employ his Courage, where it was probably to meet with the brighteſt reſiſtance; and that was, where Surena was in Perſon, who was not only the moſt conſiderable Enemie for Power, and Reſolution, but being a *Forreigner*, and having *Parthia* to befriend him, ought firſt to be attempted, & dislodg'd. The Generous Sillaces's opinion, and Reaſons, concurring with my Prince's herein, he aſſum'd the Reſolution, and that too-firmly to admit of the leaſt ſhadow of variation; The next morning therefore in a generall Aſſembly of the Offiters, my *Prince* acquainted them with his deſigne, which he fortified with ſuch pregnant reaſons, & deliver'd in ſuch an accent, as made many believe he rather ſummon'd them to approve his Counſell, than to receive theirs; ſo that partly out of judgement, partly out of complyance, the reſult of the meeting was an unanimous approving of the motion. Artabbanes therefore immediately gave

gave Zenophon Commission to Command an Army for the reduction of Media to Moneses's Power, and three dayes after, had a generall Rendezvous of all his Forces, under the Walls of Ecbatan, which he divided into two equall Parts, giving Zenophon the one, and taking the other to himself. Sillaces was yet so ill of his wounds, that he was not capable of undertaking the Command of Zenophon's Armie, nor of so much as accompanying my dear Master in his. I omit the sad words at their separation, which was no longer delay'd than that time took up, which was employ'd in the last embraces, & in Artabbanes's leaving his generous Friend the Command of all things behinde, and of the whole Kingdome, in case the Fortune of the War drew him out of it; My Prince too, found some consolation in Sillaces continuance in Ecbatan, That, being the *Metropolis* of Media, and consequently the place which *Moneses* would reside at; whereby he might not only have the opportunitie of being near the *King*, and it might be of Lindadory, but that also by the inevitable charms of his conversation, procure from the

the former, the latter. My impatient Master having thus disintangl'd himself from all obstacles, which might any longer protract his so passionately ambition'd March, began it the next day, with an Army, which though not consisting of above 14000 Horse and Foot, yet in the Quarrell it had assum'd, he thought unresistable. The next day after we had left Ecbatan, our Spies brought us in word, that Vixores (Surena's brother) had safely recover'd Arsacia, with all those Parthiãs that had escaped Merinzor's defeat, which with some other Reliques of that Partie, had so increast Surena's Troops, that learning the weakness of ours, he was determin'd to bring the dispute to a Field, and had dispatch'd away Vixores for all those Forces, which yet continu'd an intestine War in Parthia, that if the Gods blasted his first hopes, he might not be divested of all. Artabbanes with unequall'd satisfaction receiv'd this advice, for he thought every thing a felicitie which avoided protraction: And lest Surena's secõd thoughts might prove less obliging thã his first, my generous Master so precipitated his March, that in eight dayes he discover'd

thoſe happie and fatall Walls, within which the fair Partheniſſa made hir involuntary reſidence; not far from whence he discover'd Surena's Camp, which was ſcituate in a moſt advantagious and convenient place. Never (continu'd Symander) did I obſerve in my Prince's looks ſo much of contentment and ſorrow intermingl'd; the firſt was deriv'd from his vicinitie to his Princeſs, and from the Power he had to diſpute hir by Arms; & the laſt was, from the reluctancie he had contracted for the neceſſitie of employing his Life againſt one, from whom he had ſo often receiv'd it, and for whom he had a Friendſhip ſo great, that nothing could come in competition with it, but the Paſſion he had for Partheniſſa. Whilſt his Army was drawing up, he reſolv'd to write to Surena, to whom he ſent a Trumpet with this enſuing Letter.

Artabbanes, to the generous Surena.

THat Paſſion which forces you to act againſt the object of it, and yet is your Apologie for that performance; muſt be Mine for employing my Sword,

Sword, and Life, against him from whom I derive them; VVould to the Gods your Flame were not so great that that it self should prove its Crime; but that you would give the fair Parthenissa the freedom of hir election, and submit, to what we cannot, nor ought not to oppose. That if we cannot finde out our happiness in hir making of it, we would make our own, in the making of hirs; I should then carrie Arms for the generous Surena, with a much more transcendent joy, than I could obtain a victorie against him, by them; & he should then suddenly learn, that though my Love be infinite, my Friendship is proportionate, and that if I give the former the precedencie, the difference proceeds as much from my Fate, as my Inclination.

This Letter was sent by a Trumpet to Surena, who receiv'd and read it to himself at the head of his Armie, which was then drawn up to decide their difference: He went a little aside, and after a short consideration, return'd this Answer:

Surena, to the generous Artabbanes.

HAd not the Gods esteem'd it just, that Passions as immortall as themselves, should have none but them for Iudges, they had not now furnish'd us with what will bring it to their decision; which their having effected, though it makes my friendship for you, esteem it a misfortune, yet it makes my Flame for Partheniſſa, consider it as a Providence, and so signall a one, that I must not decline it; We need not fear partialitie before such a Tribunall, he that least undeserves Partheniſſa, will have it this day demonstrated by a Divine Sentence, which cannot deliver a higher Truth, than that in all occasions but this, I will employ my Sword for you with as much satisfaction, as in this I do it with Reluctancie.

My Prince at the same time he receiv'd this Letter, saw Surena's Armie march from their Camp into a Plain, which he judged, the Generall of it, had elected for the Scene of the Battell. I cannot tell you the confusions he was in at his Ryvalls Resolution, which forc'd him to evince his Love, by the suspension of his Gratitude. This Noble

Trouble

Trouble resign'd its Empire to his joy of having brought the redemption of the fair Partheniſſa to ſo immediate a Tryall. Artabbanes having view'd Surena's Armie, found by his Computation, that their Numbers, and Strength, were reſembling, to all Iudgements but his own, who thought any force inferior to his, when he conſider'd the occaſion and Recompence of his Quarrell. Neither was Surena void of the like belief, and in thoſe dictates both the Generalls began the Battell, which though it merits a retayl'd Relation, yet I ſhall only acquaint you; That the two Rywalls having a hunder'd times rally'd their broken Troops, & as many times turned the Victory, that the reward of it could hardly tranſcend the Courages which diſputed it; at length they met, which as ſoon as Artabbanes discover'd, he ended the Combat, by avoyding it; Twice that Day he repeated the ſame action on the ſame ſcore. Oh Gods! (continu'd Symander) what an influence has a tranſcendent Gratitude on a generous Minde? Artabbanes flyes from an Enemies Sword, when even that Enemie was as much

ſo to Partheniſſa, as to him, or rather more ſo to the latter, by being equally ſo to the former; but Fate forc'd my Prince to what his Inclination would have avoyded, and indeed Surena ſo ſolicitouſly courted my generous Maſter to the Combat, that it may be what did induce him to avoyde it, now did to embrace it; ſince 'twas Gratitude to act his Friends deſires: Never, Never was there a Combate reſembling this, for it tranſcended all others as much in the effect, as it did in the Cauſe; Here Artabbanes by ſo fighting, evinc'd what was not the Cauſe of his having ſo often avoyded it; and Surena by the largeneſs and unintermiſſiveneſs of his blowes, what had made him ſo ambition that Deciſion, & what he hoped would be the Reward of it. Artabbanes was mounted upon the proudeſt Horſe in *Media*, who ſeem'd to know, whom 'twas he carry'd. Surena had under him a Parthian Horſe, which yielded nothing to my Prince's, and indeed both of them ſeem'd not only to know, but act their Princes Deſigne. The Ryvalls whoſe Armors in the begining of the Day were of a different colour, now began to wear

one

one Livery, by the many fountains of blond which ſprung out of them. If Partheniſſa had beheld ſo fatall a ſight, ſhe could not but have deplor'd a Beauty, which at the ſame time that it evidenc'd, deſtroyed Courages as great as it ſelf, and perhaps a Friendſhip too. Twice already the generous Cõbatants had grappl'd, becauſe their Horſes grown furious with Heat, made many of their blows only wound the Aire, which to avoyd in the future, they cloſ'd ſo ſtrongly, that their Bridles being abandon'd, and their Horſes left to their own diſpoſe, the Ryders forc'd each other out of the Saddle, and fell on the Duſt in thoſe cruell embraces; as their deſign was, ſo were their advantages, for they ſaluted the Ground with their ſides, only Surena's Sword falling between his and the Earth, inconvenienc'd him, but ſo little, that Artabbanes had only the internall ſatisfaction of reſolving he would take no advantage of it, for before he could manifeſt that generoſity, his Enemie was in a condition not to need it. Their Horſes (as I have ſaid) ſympathizing in their Maſters concerns, were no ſooner eaſ'd of their burthen, than they alſo

began

began a furious fight, which ended not but with the life of Surena's; but then the survivor fetching two or three groans over his dead Enemy, fell down eternally by his side. You may think it strange (continu'd Symander) that any could so misimploy his sight, as to be able to give this relation; but it is certain, that the rareness of the Spectacle, & the generall belief that the Riders Fates would be seen in their Horses, drew the Eyes of many from the dispute of the former, upon the latter. The two Generalls already so weakned by those streams of blood they had mutually lost, that 'twas no more their strength, but their Resolution which continu'd the Combate; this being observ'd by many of both Armies, they advanc'd to separate them, as they were leaning on the Hilts of their Swords, to take breath; Those which came to my Prince, had only these words; Doe you fear my Courage, or my Quarrell? but they had a Look which told them more: Surena's had a resembling entertainment, and to take from their Armies the opportunity of the like offence, they renew'd the fight again, with so much strength

that

that thoſe which fear'd they had too-little left, now did, they had too-much, by the fatall way they employ'd theirs in; You will diſpence with me, generous Hearers, (ſaid Symander) if I tell you not every Blowe in this fatall relapſe, ſince I know ſo well your concerns for Artabbanes, that in ſo relating the Combate, I ſhould almoſt act it, by wounding him afreſh in your ſorrows; 'tis enough you know that both of them ſo prodigally ſpent the Treaſure of their Breath, and Bloud, that if Partheniſſa had bin a Spectator, ſhe muſt have confeſt hir ſelf too-well diſputed; and in brief, our Heroes having perform'd actions even as worthie our wonder, as Grief, Surena fell, and afterwards Artabbanes, but then their Knees ſerv'd them for Feet, as if their Hearts, the Throne of their Courages, had bin ſtrong Forts, and were to be wone by approches. Who can tell how much Partheniſſa was hated, for being ſo much Lov'd? and how many a Curſe was utter'd againſt hir, for that which was the greateſt to hir ſelf? and that which ſhe more participated in than any of her Blaſphemers. To finiſh this fatall Diſpute, I ſhall acquaint

you, that their Knees being not so active as their Feet, only serv'd them to receive wounds, not avoid them; and their mutuall weakness made them so apprehend they scarcely should have life enough left to act their Deaths, that it extinguish'd all thoughts of avoiding them. Surena, like a blaze before the extinction of a Lamp, united his expiring Forces, with a Designe in one blowe to perform, what so many had but too-far advanc'd; but as his sword was in the Ayre, his bodie fell on the ground, and thereby seem'd to tell him, that his Life was more just, than he, by abandoning him, when he intended so fatally to employ it; his Eyes also, as needing no more the Light, after the Gods had decreed Partheniſſa from him, shut their lids, as if they intended to impose on themselves an eternall Night. Artabbanes employ'd not that moment of breath which was left him, to assertain a success which he feared was too much so alreadie, but he resolv'd, since Surena by his Letter had left the least unworthy Title to Partheniſſa, to the Gods decision, that he would employ his fading strength to declare, not

act

act his Victorie; ſo that having waved his ſword over his dead Ryvalls *Bodie*, he fell down on it, and by embraces ſeem'd to beg Pardon for an inſulting, which his owne declaration had neceſſitated him unto; and which he could not have perform'd in a leſs criminall way.

PARTHENISSA.

THE SECOND PART.

THE EIGHTH BOOK.

OH Gods! (continu'd Symander) who can tell you with how many acclamations, and tears this fatall Victorie was celebrated in by the Median Armie, which being fill'd with those two most predominant Passions of Ioy, and Grief, in the Dictates they inspir'd, flew on the Parthians, who being possest only with the last of them, which rather stupifies, than enflames the Courage, lost the Victorie with their

their Generall, and left his body as one manifestation of it. For my part (said Symander) I contributed nothing to it, for taking with me an experimented Chyrurgion, I ran to my Princes body, which I found too-large a subject for the evincement of his Art; His wounds being bound up though with no signes of Life, we erected his Tent over his Body, and lay'd him on a Pallate. And because I knew if the Gods would restore him to Life, that nothing would more accelerate his recovery, than my assurance that Surena had wanted nothing for his, I caused the care of them to be as equall, as their danger, & carry'd Surena's body to a neighbour Tent, lest their being in one might have bin prejudiciall to both. It was at the least three hours that Artabbanes continu'd in his Swound, for his recovery out of which he had no water but my Tears; at length the Gods were pleas'd by the opening of his Eyes to dry up mine, which joy was increast by his speaking, and the first occasion of it, was (though with pain equall to the Generositie which caus'd it) to enquire after Surena. I gave him a true accompt of what I had done, for

which he embrac'd me; one part of his ſtrength being employ'd to enquire after his Enemy, and the other to reward the care of him. The enſuing Night was given entirely to reſt, by which he receiv'd ſo high a refreſhment, that next morning he had perfectly recover'd the uſe of ſpeaking. The firſt employment he ſent me upon, was to viſit Surena, who I found (by reſembling miracle to my Prince's) had no one wound that was mortall, and health enough recover'd, to acknowledge that Civility which ſent to enquire after his. When Artabbanes knew this happy Truth, he askt of his Chyrurgions, whether the removeall of Surena to Arſacia, might be effected without any hazard, or inconvenience; to this he was anſwer'd, affirmatively, whereupon commanding all but me out of his Tent, he told me, Go Symander from this ſtep to Surena, and tell him, that his Liberty which the Gods have given me as a puniſhment for having deny'd Partheniſſa hirs, I doe reſtore him, & had not continu'd that Combat in which he loſt it, had not our diſpute bin ſo equall, that any overture of ending it by words,

might

might have reliſht more of a care of my ſelf, than of him; but now that I can evince my ſolicitouſneſs for him, proceeds from a clearer principle, I embrace this way of ſerving him with more joy, than I aſſume at what gives me the power of doing it: Tell him with all, that he muſt now offend the Gods, if he offends any longer Partheniſſa, & that the former have ſo miraculouſly preſerv'd his Life, to give him ſo large an occaſion to repair the errors of it. But I fear (ſaid Artabbanes) I ſpeak ſo much of this, as it may invite him to believe I am gratefull, but in expectation that he will be more ſo; therefore convey him to Arſacia, and tell him only, I am at leaſt as much troubl'd that I can not pay him that duty, as at what hinders me from it. I was (continu'd Symander) as much aſtoniſht at this Command, as Surena was when I went to obey it, who in generous retributions axcepted of an obligation, he could neither have deſir'd nor hoped. Surena's being convey'd from the Army to Arſacia, could not inſpire the laſt with more joy, than it did the firſt with wonder. When he came to the Gates, which

was

was the place where I took leave of him, hé made me many Apologies for not having bin able to wait on my Prince, to have acknowledg'd a Galantry which nothing could proportion but the value he plac'd upon it, and his ambition of repaying it. Five dayes Artabbanes continu'd in more trouble from Surena's silence, than from his own wounds, which had clos'd themselves much faster, if the distempers of the Minde, had not hinder'd the cure of the Bodie. I must acknowledge I did not only believe that Surena had conveyed both himself, and Partheniſſa, into some more remote place, but told my Prince so, which thought of mine he resented as ill, as he could have the performance; and though I told him, that by what Surena had formerly done, my now conclusion was not irrationall, yet I could not make my opinion his; but the sixth day, all our suspitions, and doubts were resolv'd by a Letter which Surena sent by a Trumpet; The words, to the best of my Rememberance, were these:

Surena,

Surena, to the generous Artabbanes Prince of Media.

THough I had written as ſoon as I had receiv'd my wounds, they could not have prov'd a higher trouble to me, than my Friendſhip, and gratitude now doe; for the clearneſs of what I ought to perform cannot be greater, than the impoßibilitie: I have pleaded your cauſe with my ſelf, againſt my ſelf, and have ſaid ſo much for you, that could I but doe half as much to you, you would have admir'd, what I fear you will condemne. But alas, I cannot reſigne up Partheniſſa but with my Life; The Gods knowing this Truth, have put me into a poſture of evincing it, and I ſhall conclude they never mean you Hir, whilſt they perform not that to me: Come then generous Artabbanes to the Aſſault, and you ſhall ſee how willingly I will put my ſelf in the only capacitie, by which I can preſent Partheniſſa to you, who perhaps the Gods have not yet adjudg'd from me, ſince I can diſpute hir in a way in which I may finde my felicitie, or be incapable of reſenting the loſs of it.

My Prince read these lines with as much grief as they could be written in; he found, to have the reward of one Victorie, he must act another; & yet the end of the last, could not be more pleasing, than the way was the contrary. After the disorder these reflections infus'd were vanish'd, he return'd this answer to his Ryvall.

Artabbanes, to the Prince Surena.

THat construction which you make of the Gods preserving you, is so mistaken a one, that your repeated Crime will force them to a repeated Iudgement; 'tis not your Death, but your Life which offends them, and therefore they will not punish you in the first, but the last; which they have only lengthened, that what committed the Sin, should repaire it, and to evidence this is my Faith, if the Gods make me a second time the Master of it, I shall use you at the former rate, which you may be as confident of, as I am that they will shortly put me into a capacity of manifesting, and you of making that use of it.

Artabbanes

Artabbanes having return'd Surena's Trumpet with this Reply, immediatly order'd Arsacia to be inviron'd with his Armie, which was so numerously increast, with the Nobilitie and Gentrie which throng'd to his Enſignes, that his hopes had now no Cloud, but the protraction of them. I believe I need not tell you that my Prince, when he was recover'd, perform'd hourly the part of a Generall, an Engineer, and a Pioneer, leaving no function unpractic'd, which might accelerate his approches, and put him into a felicitie, for which he had loſt so much bloud, and fought so many Battels. In brief, one Moon had so far advanc'd our hopes, that we had ſtrong ones, another would convert them into certainties; and though Artabbanes gave many an aſſault to taſte the reſolution of the Defendants, yet he always return'd with ſuch pregnant evincements of their greatneſs, that he concluded the reduction of Arsacia, was not more a work of Courage, than of time. And though this knowledge did often ſuſpend his joyes, yet the remembrance, that only a few dayes ſeparated him from Partheniſſa, hinder'd them

from being ſuppreſt. But, great Gods! (continu'd Symander) how fallacious are the Thoughts of Man? and how often do you take delight to act things improbable, and to deſtroy thoſe which are not. For my Prince, who to haſten the Siege, made the Souldiers work at the approches, ſo aſſiduouſly, ſolicited their Labour, that by the exceſs of it, a raging Feaver invaded our Camp, and at length the Peſtilence, and that in ſo fatall a way, that it turn'd epidemicall; and to add to this miſerie, at length it ceized on my Prince too, and ſo dangerouſly, that I apprehended the loſs of his Life, in that of his hopes. Oh Gods! (continu'd Symander) what prodigies did you perform in that poor Armie? & had you no way to manifeſt your Power, but by your Crueltie? Yes (generous Hearers) never was there a greater mortallitie, than that in which the offended Deities viſited the Median Camp: Our Enſignes were no longer guarded by thoſe which notwithſtanding did not abandon them; the Living had no employment but to bury the Dead; and our Trenches had no other Defence, than what had render'd them void of

any:

any: In the horror of this Condition, the remaining Commanders appointed a Meeting, where whilſt they were adviſing of what courſe to elect, their Intelligencers came in with reitterated aſſurances, that Orodes, with all the Gallantry of Parthia, was come within 300 Furlongs, purpoſely to raiſe the Siege, which Surena had invited him to; This aſſurance taught us what to doe, ſo that the enſuing Night, whilſt Artabbanes was ſo weak, that he knew not what we did, (which was a happie ignorance) we put him into a Litter, and with the Fragments of our Armie, convey'd him ſo far before Day, that we only fear'd his ſafetie from his ſickneſs, not his Enemies. The firſt of theſe continu'd, till the arrivall of the generous Sillaces, who being in more pain not to be neer his Friend, than his wounds gave him, came from Ecbatan to my Prince's retirement; this was a happineſs we ow'd not to our own precaution, and yet we knew none but ſuch a Friend durſt diſcloſe to him how much the Gods were his enemie. And had we ignor'd that Truth, we might have diſcover'd it by inference; ſince if being acquainted with it

by Sillaces, accompany'd too with reasons as much as the Subject could bear, he fell into such expressions, and actions of Despair, that we thought his very grief would prove both his Misfortune, and his Cure; what would it not have amounted unto, if neither the Speaker, nor the things spoken, had bin what they were? These miseries had this accessionall one, that our intelligencers brought us certain advertisement, Orodes had bin received at Arsacia with as much joy, as he receiv'd Surena within it, whose invitation had brought him thither, having lost all hopes in his precedent Battell, but of continuing the Siege 'till this Relief came, which he solicited by so powerfull a Reward, as the Resignation of Partheniſſa, only with this Limitation, that Orodes should oblige himself by sollemn oath only to implore, not constrain hir affection; to which was added that Surena should be restored to his former Power, and favour; and both he, and his Partizans, have a plenary Act of oblivion. My Prince at this Intelligence cry'd out, ungratfull Ryvall! could'st thou divest thy self of a Flame for Partheniſſa, but to

repair

repair the injuries thine had heap'd upon him? Can Fear, and allegiance, make thee abandon what a higher Duty, & Generosity could not? & could'st thou hope relief from an action, which render'd thee unworthy of any? Whilst Love was thy fault, it was thy excuse, but now thou art as criminall in the very abandoning thy Passion, as in the assuming, & continuance of it. I should never finish, did I particularize all the evincements of my Prince's despair, which truely was so transcendent, that I believe we could hardly desire his recovery, so much, as he detested it. Sillaces, by what Surena had done, concluded of what he had not done, I meane not abandon'd his Passion, by his having deposited the object of it in the hands of so unsuccessfull a Ryvall, and one who would unavoydably continue that Name, if he perform'd his engagement to him. Arrabbanes at length found so much Reason in what was his Friends, that he began by little & little to qualifie a hatred he then thought he had assum'd upon a wrong score; for he could finde his Ryvall no way excusable but by that, in which his Friend accus'd him,

which

which was, that his Paſſion had the Aſcendant. Whilſt Artabbanes and Sillaces were reaſoning upon the mutatiõ of their Condition, & how to act thereon, there came certain deputed Citizens out of Arſacia, who being admitted, told my Prince, that Surena had procured for them from Orodes, a Liberty to diſpoſe of themſelves, & their City as their Intereſt, and Inclinations ſhould lead them; which as ſoon as they knew, they had acquainted Surena, that both thoſe bound them to offer up themſelves to their legittimate Prince; to which Surena reply'd, that had he not concluded they would have ſo employ'd the Conceſſion, he would never have obtain'd it; and that ſince they were ſo well determin'd, he had nothing to impoſe on them, but his deſire to aſſure Artabbanes, that to evidence 'twas not ambition, but Love, which made him diſturbe his Kingdome, as ſoon as the latter had ceaſt, he deſign'd by the reſtitution of ſo conſiderable a Place as Arſacia, to evidence the former; and he further begg'd, that his leaving Media in a perfect Quiet, might appologize for his having broken it, which if any other ſhould

attempt,

attempt; he would return with more considerable Forces to restore hir peace, than ever he had brought to interrupt it. The Arsacian Citizens, having thus perform'd Surena's part, on their Knees did their owne, by presenting Artabbanes with their Keyes, & by imploring him to believe, they had bin long since so dispos'd of, had they had the dispossall of them. My Prince having rais'd them up, granted them a Pardon for a fault which indeed others had committed, and promis'd them in the Future, an affection, which should recompence their Present. He then enquir'd of them how Surena had dispos'd of himself, since he concluded by the interest he himself had now in Arsacia, that 'twas no longer the place of his residence. The Arsacians reply'd, that both he, Orodes, and Partheniſſa were return'd with the Armie into Parthia, and though many had advised the employment of it against an Enemie, whose wrongs, and Power, would inspire him with Desires, and Actions of Revenge, yet by Surena's perswasions, all preventative thoughts of hostility were silenc'd. The Arsacians having a Governor

given them of their own Election, were dismiſs'd; And then the Two Princes after a private debate, reſolved, that Sillaces being now perfectly recover'd, ſhould return into Parthia, both to act his owne Intereſt, and countenance my Prince's; who concluded, nothing by way of force but a Conqueſt of Parthia could recover Partheniſſa out of it, and that ſuch a way was both too-tedious, & uncertain; that therefore as he loſt his Princeſs by Arts, and Slight, ſo he ſhould attempt the recovering of hir, the very way of his loſs, inſtructing him how to repair it, and therefore as ſoon as his ſtrength would permit, he would follow his Friend in a Diſguiſe, that if he regained not Partheniſſa, yet at leaſt he might ſee, and converſe with hir, which was the next Bleſſing. The Prince Sillaces, having his Friend's Intereſt mingled with his owne, did that with joy upon both thoſe ſcores, which he could not without reluctancie have undertaken upon his owne; and before he began his journey, he had the ſatisfaction of hearing from Zenophon, that though his Armie had found little reſiſtance, yet the benefit & largeneſs of

his

his Progreſs, repair'd the little Glory he acquir'd in it. Sillaces was ſafely arriv'd in Parthia two Moons before my *Prince* could leave *Media*; which forc'd, and neceſſary continuance there, gave him time to ſettle that *Kingdome*, which his *Paſſion* otherwiſe would not have allowed him: And learning that his firſt Embaſſadors to *Moneſes* were miscarried, he employ'd others, who paſſing ſucceſsfully in their going, and return, through various Dangers, the very ſame day my *Prince* was beginning his ſo ambition'd Iourney, they preſented him with this enſuing Letter, whoſe Addreſs was as ſtrange to him, as the Contents was to us.

Moneſes, to Artabbanes King of Media.

THat Solitude which discontent led me to embrace, now Reaſon does, for in it I have found ſo ſerene a Felicitie, that all the trouble I am capable of in it, is an apprehenſion, you may ſuſpect my Affection to my ſelf, not to you, makes me preſent you with the Crown of Media. All the advantage I derive from the Gods conferring it on me, is to evidence how little I value it,

or how much I value you; believe me Artabbanes, I cannot better illustrate the greatness of both, than by resembling the one unto the other; I could almost ambition I were a friend unto Power, that by resigning it, I might manifest I am more so to you, who have so great a burthen to undergo, that the not beholding it, is none of the least blessings I promise my self in my retirement. 'Tis my ill Fate that I must pitie you in giving you Testimonies of my Affection, for 'tis the Miserie of Kings to derive their happiness from other Mens opinions, not their owne; the unlimitedness of their Power, makes their Failings, their Designes; & renders them guiltie of not intending the best, as well as of not acting of it; you will be envy'd by all but your self, Mens ignorance will render you as unhappy, as your own knowledge; the Gods it seems being so intent on the infelicitie of Monarchs, that to effect it, they make contraries produce a resembling event: But though these be some of the inconveniencies of Government, yet the whole must suffer more for want of one, than any particular can by undergoing it; and he that knows the Troubles of a Crown, and yet dares wear one for his Countreys Good, may in the merit of the performance finde some kind of

Antidote

Antidote againſt the miſeries which attends it: Fear nothing, but to do Injuſtice, then you will have this conſolation, that what misfortunes you undergo, do not belong to the Perſon, but the function. Go Artabbanes and Rule a Nation, whilſt I ambition but to rule my ſelf; Give Lyndadorie your Affection, and Care, and the Gods give you as much happineſs in the wearing a Crown, as they do me in the power of declining one.

This generous Letter was no ſooner finiſh'd, than my Prince found how true the contents of it were, by looſing a Father the firſt hour of his putting on a Crown: He gave to that loſs, thoſe retributions which the beſt diſpoſitions are capable of; And learning from thoſe which brought him the occaſion of his ſadneſs, that Moneſes was unalterable in his Reſolves, & contemned the World, as much as now it courted him, as alſo that they had brought Letters thereof to the Nobilitie of Media, which too imported the reſignation of his Crown to him, and his deſires, and Commands to them, of accepting him for their King; He reſolv'd to defer his Coronation, 'till things of a high-

er concernment were brought to some issue, and 'till he could present that Crown which was presented him, to hir who in his Iudgement better deserv'd it, and for which end only he rejoyced to have it. This new alteration suspended his journey, but it was only so long as the deputing the generous Zenophon Chief Governor in his absence did take up; so that the next morning, abandoning the Glories of a new Crown, and so many thousands of People who ambition'd to invest him in it, he set forwards for Parthia, only taking me with him, and both of us so disguis'd, that we were hardly knowable to each other. All the time of our long journey, my King entertain'd himself in Designes how to accomplish his Princess's Libertie, and if at any time he interrupted his owne silence, 'twas to communicate some stratagem to me, or to enquire if I had found out any worthy his knowledge. This being our only employment, we thought on so many Plots, that we hoped all of them would not be fruitless. We had alreadie so far conquer'd our Voyage, that we were come to the top of the Mountain Taurus, when

when from thence we might discover the adjacent Plain cover'd with Armed Troops; some of the wilde Inhabitants of the place from whence we took our *Prospect*, told us, they were Parthians, which was the utmost of their knowledge. Artabbanes therefore sent down one of the least irrationall amõgst them to bring him a more clear informatiõ; This Messenger, about the break of Day return'd to us again, with this Assurance, that Two Parthian Princes, Sillaces, and Surena were joynt-Generalls of that vast Body, which was going to Fight the Roman Armie which lay near the City Charres, and was commanded by one Crassus. This news surpriz'd us, and made us believe our Intelligencer was mistaken, by his joining Sillaces, and Surena in one Commission, which we concluded Orodes could never doe; but he was so possitive in his repeated Relation, that my *Prince* resolv'd to mingle himself with the Parthian Army (who were then pulling down their Tents for a March) and learn the Truth of what he had so much cause to doubt. This was not difficult for us to effect, for going a little aside in those Rude

Places,

Places, 'till some of the first Troops were past us, we join'd the others without being suspected, or examined. We had not rid a Quarter of an Hour in that manner, when we perceiv'd the generous Sillaces riding from one Division to another, animating the Souldiers against the difficultie of the way, and making of them keep their Ranks as much as the illness of it would permit. Artabbanes thinking this was a fit time to discloſe himself to his Friend, and to learn from him his own Fate in the fair Partheniſſa's, tooke the opportunity to doe it, when he was gotten on a little height to view his Armies march, and only attended by a Couple of his Domesticks. Sillaces had well-nigh, at my Kings naming himself, discover'd who he was by a passionate embracing him, & 'twas with no small violence that he kept himself from doing it; but having sent on some employment those that were near him, and gotten into a retir'd Place, he there permitted his Arms to take with usury, what he had till then suspended them from. Here the genenerous Friends having finish'd that part of their entertainment, which might have

have bin dangerous if visible, and as troublesome if not performed, lest Sillaces absence might be observed, he put himself at the head of his Armie, where all out of respect kept themselves at so great a distance, that calling Artabbanes to him during that dayes March, they had ample and secure leasure to acquaint each other with what had happen'd since their separation; Sillaces, who knew my Kings impatiencie, told him, that at his return, Orodes had receiv'd him with large, and open demonstrations of affection, and with many acknowledgements for what he had acted for Tygranes, and against Merinzor; That he assiduously visited the fair Partheniſſa, which both his dutie, and affection oblig'd him to, since that after hir escape out of the Isle of Eden, the Princess Lindadory and Zephalinda returned to Nineveh, and since Partheniſſa's coming thither, they Three had bin inseparable; That Orodes continu'd his Passion for my Kings Mistris, with as much Violence, and unsuccessfulness as ever; that he was dayly more and more confirm'd in a confidence, that Surena had not extinguish'd his Flame for

Partheniſſa, but reſign'd hir to Orodes, as being a leſs dangerous Ryvall; That the King of Parthia, being told of ſome misunderſtanding between Surena and him, had publickly deſir'd, and enjoyned their reconciliation; and to perfect it, had made them joynt-Generalls againſt Craſſus, who having ſpent too-much time in robbing the Iews Temple at Ieruſalem, was now come loaden with wealth, and Sacralidge, to invade Parthia, and was not diſtant above three dayes march; Laſtly, the generous Sillaces told my Prince, that the fair Lindadory was conſtant in hir Bleſſings to him, which left him no ſhadow of fear, but that the King of Media would think (what he confeſt) that they were too-unworthily plac'd. The King of Media (ſaid my Prince) thinks they are ſo juſtly, that if his Love to Lindadory were capable of acceſſion, hir choyce & conſtancie would inſpire it. Oh Gods! (reply'd Sillaces) am I then in ſo tranſcendent a condition? You are (ſaid Artabbanes) if the Truth of what I tell you can make you ſo; and that you may no longer doubt it, Lindadory is at my diſpoſe, and conſequently at hir owne, & yours;

There-

Thereupon he told him of Moneſes preferring a Solitude before a Crown, and of his having conferr'd that of Media upon him, with the care of his fair Siſter. Theſe extacies of Ioy made the March not tedious, though the way might have render'd it much ſo: This was the cauſe that before Sillaces thought the Sun had run half his courſe, he was near his ſet; Thoſe therefore which were truſted with the Camping of the Armie, came to advertiſe him they had found a fit place for that end, and deſir'd his orders; For he and Surena commanded the Armie by Dayes, after the Conſullarie manner. Sillaces having viewed and elected a fit Camp for ſo large a Bodie, and given the requiſite orders for that nights diſcipline, & ſecuritie, withdrew himſelf to his Tent, that he might the better enjoy an entertainment, which he valued much, yet not more than it deſerv'd to be ſo; but having the place emptied of all but Artabbanes, Surena came to viſit, & acquaint him with a deſigne he had put in execution, of drawing Craſſus out of the Straits, & Moũtains of Balliſſus, into the Plains of Meſopotamia, where the Parthian

Horſe would have an advantage, which gave him more than hopes of a Victory. I cannot tell you (ſaid Symander) with what emotions and ſurprizes my King conſider'd himſelf ſo near Surena, & how many times he had his hand upon his Sword, to demand a finall Reaſon of him for all thoſe Miſeries he had involv'd him in, & (which was much more ſenſible) the fair Partheniſſa. But the reſpect he pay'd Sillaces, & the apprehenſiõ he had, how great a hazard the Quarrell of his Coũtry might run, by ſo unſeaſonable a deciſion of his own, which probably would engage an Armie too-much againſt it ſelf, that had already but too-much againſt it, ſuſpended his reſentments; but leſt his Looks might one way occaſion, what he had ſuppreſt in another, he withdrew himſelf 'till Surena by returning had left Sillaces alone, who told my Prince, that his Colleague had ſo well deluded the Roman Generall, by the Arts of Ariamnes, a Parthian of excellent dexterity in ſuch negotiations, that Craſſus elevated too by the freſh arrivall of Publius Craſſus (his Son) with one Thouſand men at Arms ſent him by Iulius Cæſar, had quitted

quitted the fast Countries where his Legions were invincible, and was marching so precipitately to the Plains of Carres, which he had elected for the Generall Field, that if we make not hast, he will possess himself of all the advantages of it, before our arrivall, which makes us (continu'd Sillaces) resolve so to accelerate our march, that the Roman Courages by their attendance, shall not cool. This News stirr'd Artabbanes's blood, and made him determine before he presented himself to his Princess, to let hir know the Arms with which Crassus had beaten him, were not by those of honor. Sillaces with raptures of joy, receiv'd this assurance, and could not doubt of the Victory, since my Prince would solicit, & Court it. In brief, two dayes after the Parthian & Roman Armie saluted each other by sight, but the day was so far spent, that they both concluded there would not be left enough for a decision, which would be so well disputed. That Night then was given to rest, and preparation for the ensuing Day, which no sooner dawn'd, than Surena, whose turn it was to Command, drew out his Armie, &

the better to delude the Romans, he cover'd the Armour of his Men at Arms (which were all of polliſht Margian Steel) with the Skins of Beaſts, which made Craſſus ſay, he was going to a hunting, not a Battell; His right Wing was led by the generous Sillaces, who was accompany'd by my disguiſed Prince, richly Armed, and advantagiouſly mounted, but the firſt conceal'd by an obſcure Coate; The Battell Surena led, and the left wing Vixores, who as his Brother, was reſtored to Orodes's favour. Publius Craſſus had the conduct of the right wing of the Roman Armie, Marcus Craſſus of the Battell, & Caſſius of the left; The Nations of which theſe Armies were compos'd, was evident by the firſt encounter, which was ſo furious, and bloudy, that one might have concluded of the Progreſs, by the beginning. Publius Craſſus routed Vixores's wing, whoſe Horſe unfortunately going to the Charge, had render'd him uncapable of performing it; which fall, more inconvenient than dangerous, (for it but amaz'd him) gave Craſſus not only the liberty of acting what he did, but alſo of hinder-

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ing them from rallying; this unhappineſs arriv'd at the ſame time, that Marcus Craſſus gave a bloudy impreſſiõ on Surena's Battell, and ſo much diſorder'd it, that Artabbanes caſting off what cover'd the beauty, and richneſs of his Armor, flew where his Courage, and conduct were but too-neceſſary. His firſt relief was given to his Ryvall, who 'till it came, fought more in deſpair, than hope; but my King having metamorphoſ'd his condition, went to relieve Vixores's Troops, who were both the Romans Chaſe, and Quarrie. The heat he was in, made him lift up his Helmet, which being ſhaded with Carnation Plumes, brought ſo large an acceſſion to his naturall good meen, that thoſe which beheld it, were as much pleaſ'd with it, as with his aſſiſtance; which he then affoarded thoſe of that routed wing, by heading a ſmall partie, with which deſpiſing all Enemies, but the Chiefeſt, addreſt his main charge, to the young Craſſus, who at the head of his Troops, he kill'd with his owne hands; and ſome Parthians according to their barbarous cuſtome, cutting off his head, and carrying it on the point of a Launce, it

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brought as much Terror to his Partie, as so lately it had succeſs. This was the firſt dawning of the glorious event which that day ſhin'd upon the Parthians, and this was ſo generouſly follow'd by him which begun it, that though ſome fatall wounds he receiv'd in the Triumvir's owne Battalion, render'd him uncapable of finiſhing what he had made ſo large a Progreſs in, yet the Victorie remain'd entirely to the Parthians, by which you may imagin how far he had advanc'd it, when they could conclude it without him. In that bloudie day my Prince ſo repair'd the wrongs of Treachery, that he wanted nothing of an entire ſatisfaction, but that Craſſus knew not, he had done ſo. The generous Sillaces, who with his ſword had made many wayes to Glorie, in the purſuing of it, receiv'd from me the fatall Newes, that my King was able no longer to doe ſo, which made him abandon all deſignes, but thoſe of returning to ſerve Artabbanes; whom I had carryed into his Tent, where he found him in a condition too-too-ſufficient to cloud, and make him deplore that dayes ſucceſs; For alas the turning

turning of the bloud after the dreſſing of his wounds had caſt him into a ſwound, which Sillaces had like to have accompany'd him in; But the Gods by reſtoring him to himſelf, did the like to his generous Friend, who gave ſuch ſignall demonſtrations of Joy for that bleſſing, that had not the high performances of my *Prince* that day, render'd them only upon that ſcore legitimate, by the greatneſs of the effects, thoſe which were preſent, might have judged to whom they were payd. But Sillaces, that he might not be ſeparated from Artabbanes, ſent Surena word, that ſome hurts render'd him uncapable of proſecuting the ſucceſs, which therefore he left entirely to his Care; neither indeed was this an abſolute fiction, for he had receiv'd Five wounds, yet none ſo dangerous as to have produced that detention which a nobler impediment did. In this great day there fell above 20000 Romans, and the next we learn'd, that Surena by many ſlights had firſt gotten *Marcus* Craſſus out of the Citie of Charres, & then into his *Power*, by promiſes of Life to him, and his remaining Armie, if they would embrace Orodes's mercy.

Though the Roman Souldiers forced their Generall to this, yet he repayd their great Crime, with a proportionate Generositie; For as he was going to Surena, turning about, and addressing his speech to some Patricians, he told them; If any of you, O Romans, survive this ruine, tell the Senate, 'twas not my Souldiers necessitated me to go into the Parthians hands, but my Fate, which being confident to receive from them, I go to embrace with joy, as believing my bloud will prove a Ransome for the rest of my Countrey-men, who, if they saw me die by my owne hands, might have as much provocation to imitate, as they will have to revenge me. These words, when contrary ones were both deserved and expected, drew Tears into many Eyes, and drew Octavius & Petronius along with their Generall, who as the Romans say, being brought before Surena, was immediately murther'd with those which accompany'd him; and as we say, some high language passing between Surena and him, Octavius drew his Sword to vindicate the Triumvir, which occasion'd all their Deaths: howsoever it was Crassus's head

head was cut off and ſent to Orodes. I may not omit (continu'd Symander) to let you know, that the *Parthians*, who had unanimouſly obſerved they deriv'd their Glory from the ubiquitie, of the Courage & conduct of one, whoſe good Meen, and Arms render'd him alſo exceeding remarkable, came to Surena, and implor'd the ſight of their Deliverer; which he alſo acknowledging him to be, to ſatisfie Iuſtice and Them, made a diligent but fruitleſs enquirie after my *Prince*; but this ignorance of whom he was, and where to finde him, conferr'd on him an honor greater than their knowledge of both, would have produced; For the admirable effects of his Courage, his abandoning them when they no longer needed it, & the declining of a Glorie, which no Mortall could have ſo great a reſignation as not to owne, led ſome of them to think, it might be the *Tutelary* Angel of Parthia: This particular opinion being publiſh'd, became the generall *Faith*, in the dictates whereof, collecting together all the combuſtible Arms of the Romans, the Parthian Armie, caſting themſelves into a Ring, ſet Fire to

the Pile, and accompany'd the aſcenſion of the Flame with loud ſhouts of acknowledgements, and Gratitude to his reſidence, who was the cauſe of both. This high retribution of the Parthians to my Prince's Valour (whoſe ignorance could not render them ſo much as ſuſpected of partialitie, and whoſe enjoying the benefit of it, made them the more competent Iudges of its greatneſs) brought not near ſo much ſatisfaction to him, as his wounds (which render'd him uncapable of paying his Dutie to his Princeſs) did the contrary. The generous Sillaces gave him all the conſolation he was capable of, by begging him to believe, the Glory of the Cauſe ought to appologize for the effect, & would even in Partheniſſa's owne judgement, though perhaps not in hir affection. My Prince, who proteſted it could doe it in neither of his, conjur'd Sillaces, to return with Surena to Selutia, there to receive, and participate in a Tryumph, which he deſerv'd entirely to engroſſe, and to ſupervize their mutuall affairs; as alſo to have a Care leſt this acceſſiõ of Glory to Surena, might not thruſt him into attempts, which Sillaces himſelf was

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of opinion he wanted but the Power & opportunity to undertake. That generous Prince, who by this time (which was fifteen dayes after the Battell of Charres) found Artabbanes in a mending condition, & himself in a travelling one, obey'd Artabbanes's inceſſant ſolicitations, having firſt receiv'd a reitterated aſſurance of his following him as ſoon as he was able; he would have alſo left him ſome truſty Domeſticks, but my Prince would detaine none but a Chyrurgion, of whoſe fidelity he was as confident, as of his Skill. Sillaces & Surena being gone to Selutia, we tranſported Artabbanes from the Camp into a Neighbour Village, where there was leſs ill-accommodation than in the Field, & where we remained two Moons before he thought himſelf in a poſture fit to make uſe of a Horſe; During our reſidence there we heard frequently from Sillaces, whoſe letters were ſtill confirmations of his beleiving Surena had ſilenc'd but not extinguiſh'd his Paſſion, and that that was Orodes's Faith as well as his, who therefore ſeem'd to be more troubl'd than pleas'd at his ſucceſs, and who

every day disclos'd some such symptomes of his being not well satisfied with him, that it was generally thought those signes would turn into effects, which Surena's high Carriage would not a little contribute to the accellerating. Artabbanes, who knew Surena had almost as much discretion as Love, concluded he would not so far incense his King, as that it should be publickly taken notice of, unless he were prepar'd for some high Designe, and sought but a provocation to begin it. This rationall belief, put the possessor of it upon an irrationall resolution, that of beginning a Iourney to Selutia, before he was well able to walk in his Chamber, and against the advice and Prayers of the Chyrurgion, who protested it would at least more than hazard a Relapse, longer than his first indisposition: But my King, though he were deaf to us, yet after his first dayes journey, he could not be so to his Pain & weakness, both which told and made him believe what he would not from us. And indeed his Indisposition was so great, & so long like to continue so, that we removed him to a private Country-house that we then were in, being

being too-common of it ſelf, and ſeated in a Roade that was ſo. Artabbanes's removall from his firſt reſidence, and his then taking ſo retir'd a One, made him juſtly apprehend he ſhould be deny'd the ſatisfaction of his Friends Intelligences; he therefore cõmanded me to go to Selutia to acquaint Sillaces with his removall, and perfectly to learn all the transactions & intrecacies of the Court, which he ſaid he thought could no way be ſafelyer nor better effected, than by employing me. To obey this Command immediatly I tooke Poſt, and upon the Third Day towards the Cloſe of the Evening, I came to the end of my Iourney; but as I paſt along the Streets to a Friends Houſe, whom I durſt only, and whom I did entirely truſt, I ſaw ſtrange murmuring Crouds of People, and amongſt others ſo deep a conſternation, that I concluded 'twas no common Cauſe which had ſo extraordinary a productiõ. On my arrivall at my Friends, whom I happily found at home, I enquir'd what created theſe unuſuall effects. He was as much ſurpriz'd at my Queſtion, as I was at his Anſwer, which was, That Orodes having aſſum'd ſome high

high Iealousies of Surena, either upon a score of Love or Power, had that Day seized on him; and after a short hearing & Sentence, had but even then put him to Death, which so strange and sudden a proceeding was the the cause of those unusuall Crouds in the Citie, the very Commonalty admiring the vicissitude of Fortune, which in few hours produced so strange a Revolution, that he for whom so recently Scaffolds were built to behold his triūphs, now had some to behold his Execution. Neither is this the only cause of what you enquire the reason of, since 'tis firmly reported, that even in this momēt Orodes is forcing a Felicity from Partheniſſa, which hir Constancy has so resolutly deny'd him; But this is so improbable a Crime, that many believe 'tis divulg'd by Surena's Partizans, to make his Martyrdom appear the clearer, and the more certainly to have it reveng'd. You may believe I was not a little surpriz'd at this relatiō, which the more I reflected on, the more I found cause to conclude, that the latter part of it was true, because the former was; and that Arsaces would not so precipitate his Favorites Execution,

ſution, but for an end which was more conſiderable than that loſs; and I knew nothing could appear ſo to him, but the ſatisfaction of his Flame. 'Twas therefore, that haſtily abandoning my Friend, I went up ſo to the Palace, reſolving by my owne Death, or by Orodes's, to prevent a misfortune I much more juſtly apprehended than either: But oh Gods! as ſoon as I came within the Guards of the Court, I found them melting in Tears, from whence I concluded, 'twas ſome ſtrange thing which had ſo proportionate an influence; This generall grief produced ſo generall a neglect of all things but of the celebrating it, that without ſo much as being queſtion'd, I came (by the knowledge I had of all the Palace) to Partheniſſa's Anti-Chamber, from whence I heard in the Room where ſhe lay, ſo many, and ſo high evincements of ſorrow, that I concluded, that which then invaded me, was but too-juſtly grounded. The firſt operatiõs of mine being a little mittigated, I took the confidence to look into that ſad Chamber. But Great Gods! I had no ſooner done ſo, than I fell into it, my ſpirits abandoning me at the

ſight of the fair Partheniſſa's being dead on a Couch, & Zephalinda by hir. The fair Emilia too, with diſhevell'd hair, drown'd eyes, & wringed hands, acting grief ſo paſſionately, that I concluded 'twas more eaſie for hir to have bin dead, than to live in a Misfortune which render'd the being ſo, ſo neceſſarie. The noyſe I made in my Fall, made ſome of the Princeſſes women run to learn from whence it proceeded; one of them in Charitie, flinging ſome water on my Face, waſh'd off that colour with which I was disguiſ'd, & thereby discover'd who I was, having formerly known me; My ſences being return'd, ſhe that had bin my Phyſician went and told the disconſolate Emilia of my being there, who in a languiſhing Pace came towards me, and with a voice which was ſo, told me; At length Symander, at length the Gods have wearied themſelves with having perſecuted a Virtue as great as the Crueltie which has done it, and made the Tyrant Arſaces know, that when they denie a ſanctuarie to Innocence, Death will affoard it one: His not believing this Truth, hath forc'd the Divine Partheniſſa to act it, the effects of whoſe high

high Conſtancie for your *Prince*, is yet clouded by a performance of the fair Zephalinda, who thought Death ſo unconſiderable, if it came in competition with hir Friendſhip, that not to have the laſt ſuſpected, ſhe has embrac'd the firſt. Here the fair Emilia's ſighes performed what they had ſo often attempted, I mean cut off hir relation, which yet was as efficatiouſly continu'd by hir *Tears*, which ſpake both the ſadneſs of the Storie, and evidenc'd what was due unto it. The faithfull Symander, at the rememberance and repetition of theſe fatall Paſſages, ſo ſympathiz'd in the grief of which he was making a deſcription, that it hinder'd him from continuing it, which was a performance, both Artavaſdes and Callimmachus could not condemne, becauſe they ſympathiz'd in it. It was almoſt a quarter of an hour, before the Auditors could beg the Speaker's continuance of his Narration, or that he could obey them, which at length he thus did: My impatience (ſaid *Symander*) was too-high to continue any longer ignorant of the Cauſe of our Loſs, eſpecially when what was the impediment, as to me,

was the aggravation of it; I did therefore conjure the fair Emilia to acquaint me, by what strange wayes the Gods had effected so strange an end: To which she told me; Arsaces, since the delivering up of Partheniſſa to him by Surena, so augmented in his Passion, and she in her Resolves of declining to reward it, that many foresaw such extreams could not but produce proportionate effects. The News of the Romans defeat divesting Orodes of Fear, Desire took so absolute an Empire over him, that in the criminall dictates of his, he so importunately prest the Princess to reward his Flame by a Hymeneall Crown, that she declining it, he vow'd by all the oathes his fury could invent, that if in five dayes she alter'd not hir inclination, he would satisfie his, in a way so fatall, that she should be convinc'd, 'twas not for want of Power, that he so advantagiously perswaded hir to his Bed. This he esteem'd a modest warning, for amongst his Domesticks he solemnly protested, he would have that by force, which he could not by composition; and to evidence this was his resolution, immediatly he sent all his Guards to

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inviron the Princeſs Appartment with this ſtrict injunction, that none without a licenſe under his owne hand (but hir meniall Servants) upon pain of Death ſhould ſpeak with hir; and leſt hir reſolution might fruſtrate the deſignes of this, he permitted not any Inſtrument which could act Death to be either in hir, or any of hir Domeſticks power. Three dayes of the five were expir'd in the punctuall obſervance of his Orders, when towards the Evening the Princeſs Zephalinda, by the permiſſion of the Guards, came into Parthemiſſas Chamber, and after ſhe had acquainted hir with hir Friendſhip, & hir own ſad condition by hir Tears, ſhe told hir; The permiſſion, Madam, I have obtain'd of paying you this duty, is upon a ſcore I am ſo far from making uſe of, that could I fancy you capable of liſtening to it, I would employ it to an oppoſite end; for Arſaces, but upon the pretence of my coming to ſolicite you to be his Queen, would not have permitted it; I was forced to promiſe what I never intended to perform, though it is probable, by that Friendſhip he knows I pay Artabbanes, which too it may be he miſtakes

for a Paſſion, he thought my intereſt concurring with his in depriving you of that generous Prince, might render me a fit Agent for ſuch an end; but that, Madam, of my coming to wait on you, is to know which way I may prevent it; there is no difficulty which my Zeal will not deprive of that Name, & I ſhall finde none in my own condition but to live to behold you any's, but his. This generous declaration (Emilia continu'd) had a proportionate retribution, and this further Anſwer. I have not, fair Zephalinda, ſo misimploy'd the time of my confinement, as not to conſider 'tis ſecur'd with ſo much force, & care, that I am not now to ſeek an election, but how to act mine; your aſſiſtance in which is the only, and the higheſt obligation you can confer either on Artabbanes, or me: I finde abſtinence is a Sanctuary I cannot reach; If I had known it earlier what I am fully convinc'd of now, I ſhould not have implor'd from you ſo dangerous an obligation; but my ignorance which cauſes this Deſire, will I hope procure your Pardon for my making it; and my condition will invite you to grant a requeſt, which you cannot deny,

deny, without being acceſſary to a guilt, nothing can equall but your Repentance for not having prevented it. Madam (ſaid Zephalinda, in a Floud of Tears) I conjure you to ſuſpend any violence againſt your Life, 'till my next viſit, which ſhall doubtleſs preſent you with your deliverance, or with the power to act it. I will obey you (Partheniſſa reply'd) but remember if you violate this engagement, you aſſume Arſaces's Crimes. Which if I doe (ſhe anſwer'd) may I ſuffer the puniſhment due unto them. Zephalinda immediatly left us, and from the time ſhe did ſo, 'till hir return (which was the Morning of the laſt day) Partheniſſa employ'd it all, in finding ſome expedient to extinguiſh hir Life, ſhould hir Friend, by ſome ſtrange accidēt be hinder'd from bringing of hir one; and at length elected that fatall, and only remedy, of ſloping hir breath with hir Linen, which by the Countenance Zephalinda put on at hir then entrance, ſhe concluded would be abſolutely neceſſary; & in thoſe reſolves ſhe told hir; I obſerve (Madam) by the ſence you have of my condition, that Death only can change it, the neceſſi-

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ty of the performance will I hope invite the Gods to pardon it, they would not leave me but one way to avoid a transcendent sin, if that it self were a proportionate one; a Martyr acts his owne Death, and yet thereby acquires that glorious Title; My affection for Artabbanes, has bin confirmed by as many vowes, as my zeal has bin to the Gods, who might too justly suspect I would decline these, were I capable of declining those; I alleadge not these reasons to confirm my self in my resolution, but you; that you may receive as much consolation in the Cause, as I shall in the acting of it. These fatall words were deliver'd with much less emotion, than they were heard with; and the Divine Princess evidenc'd the certainty she had of another Life, by the little disorder she resented at the abandoning of this. The fair Zephalinda having silenc'd hir Tears, and sighs (too-just retributions not to be repay'd either to Partheniſſa's condition, or the resolution with which she bore it) thus reply'd; Since I last had the misfortune of leaving you, time has bin strangely active, & if I gave you any hopes of your deliverance, 'twas because I had

had assum'd some pregnant ones of it. For Surena, who had some few Dayes past taken up a firm belief, that Orodes would more than solicite your affectiõ, began some private leavies of Men to prevent it, which Arsaces having discover'd either by intelligence, or by the probabilitie of the thing, took so short a space for the reception of your positive Answer, that it prevented your intended relief, with that certaintie with which it was design'd; yet when I informed my Brother, of the Kings resolution, and yours, in the Dictates of Rage, and Pitie, he went to him, and told him, with a Countenance which spake his heart, as much as his words did; When I resign'd up the Princess Partheniſſa to you, 'twas Sir upon termes you confin'd your self to by so many solemne, and reitterated vowes, that though it be the common Faith you intend to violate them, yet it cannot be mine, 'till it be confirm'd by your owne avowing it. Arsaces, who had then but one of his Domesticks about him, & who judged by Surena's Countenance, and abrupt Question, he was in a temper fit to attempt any thing that

was desperate, if your condition appear'd to be so, return'd him this Answer; I believe so manys assuming that Faith, proceeds from the as many knowers of Partheïssa's usage of me, which is such, that it may with too much reason perswade them to believe I am sooner capable of any thing, than of such a neglect. I hope Sir (Surena reply'd) though this may be other Mens belief, yet it is not your resolution; for that sacred contract you made with me, was not conditionall, but absolute; so that no ill usage of hirs to you, can render legitimate a resembling return of yours to hir. The knowledge I had of your Passion, and of the impossibilitie of hir receiving, & rewarding it, made me intently carefull to leave you no way of violating your engagement, but by violating your oathes, which will raise more to revenge such a performance, than your Power can to hinder it. This resolute, and true reply, so insenc'd the cruell Orodes, who (by the then coming into the Room of many of his Guards, and Courtiers, to learn the result of their meeting) now no more apprehended to disclose what he was confident could not be prevented, & which

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he only fear'd the discoverie of, upon that ſcore, told my Brother with a furious Look, and Tone; Traytor, that canſt have reaſon enough to make thy Kings actions appear as Crimes, and wanteſt it, when thy own are more undeniablly ſo. The Tyes thou haſt to Partheniſſa, are but accidentall, & thoſe thou haſt to me, are naturall, yet in thy late Rebellion, thou couldſt with leſſer ſcruple violate thy alleagiance, than thou now reprocheſt me with violating my Promiſe. Thou didſt in thy performance, leave me a latitude for the acting of mine, and canſt not reproch me but with that for which thou art my Example: Nay, that Contract thou haſt ſo often mention'd, and by which thou wouldſt tye my hands; ſets them at libertie, eſpecially to the puniſhing of Thee, for having attempted it; For 'twas thy Rebellion gave thee that ſeeming Power, of making one of my Vaſſals confine me from acting my pleaſure upon another; now that force being diſſolv'd, by which thou didſt this Crime, I have much more reaſon to puniſh thy having extorted ſuch a promiſe, than thou haſt to demand the performing of it,

since I but assume a Power I indisputably had before thy Treason eclips'd it, but thou canst not exact the performance of a forc'd engagement, but thou must remember what thou didst to procure it, and that will vindicate me for not observing it; Thou, by cancelling the first obligation, hast taught me to punish thee in the repetition of thy Fault, and by making force to be justice, thou hast render'd that Art which destroys Thine, to be much more so. Surena sencibly wounded with this language, reply'd; You reproch me Sir with your own fault, for 'twas you, not I which cancell'd the first obligation, and though this was but then evident to a few, yet by what you have since menaced the fair Partheniſſa with, you have render'd it now so to all, and made my performance as clear to the World, as it was then to me. The obligations between you, and your subjects are mutuall, they promise you obedience, and you them protection; you then first broke your engagement, before I did mine, and I never drew my sword against you, but to keep you from a greater Crime, than that it self was; and

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though you alleadge my confinement to you is naturall, and to the fair Partheniſſa accidentall, yet when you conſider upon what ſcore I ty'd my ſelf to hir Intereſts, you will finde it was deriv'd from a Duty, unto which that you challenge, is much ſubordinate. 'Tis the duty I owe the Gods, and that obliges me more to preſerve the Innocent, than my Birth does to obey you; eſpecially when your Cõmands are of a Quality that carry in my diſobedience, the juſtification of it; Whilſt you govern'd with in your Laws, I gave you that obſervance due to you in them, and was more prodigall of my blood to defend and increaſe your Power, than when you miſimploy'd it, I was to oppoſe it; Nay, after you were ſeemingly converted, I brought you home a Victory from a people that hardly ever knew what it was to loſe one; I was in hope the Gods, by ſhewing how ſucceſsfull my Sword was for you, would have invited you to Actions which it can only be employ'd in; But I now fear you will render me unavoydably guilty; For drawing my Sword against you, for hir, cannot render me more

criminall in your esteem, than the not doing it, will render me so in the Iudgement of the Gods, and of Men. Here (continu'd Zephalinda) Arsaces's fury was uncapable of a longer silence, which made him interrupt Surena, by saying; Traytor, Thou hast not only the wickedness to run into a Rebellion, but to declare that performance a greater Duty, than the not having acted it; That Power which thou shalt know, and feel is absolute, thou wouldest make conditionall, that it might not punish thee; but that Sin thou shalt be convinc'd is one, even in the punishment of it; & because thou alleadgest thou never drew'st thy Sword against me, but to keep me from a higher Crime than that it self was; I will repay thy kindness in the imitation of it, & by thy Death hinder thee from a greater Sin than the commanding of it is: yes, I will punish in thy intended Rebellion, what thou eyedst me from in thy acted Rebellion; and the Gods who knew how unjust that concession was thou extortedst from me, involve thee in new Crimes, that thou might'st be rewarded for the old; My Iustice only is cloud-

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ed with this misfortune, that thou haſt but a ſingle Life to appeaſe it with, ſince thy relapſe deſerves the deprivation of that, and conſequently thy firſt Sin will continue unpuniſht. Orodes, at the end of theſe words, turn'd to the Captain of his Guards, and commanded him to ſeize on Surena, who ſeeing his Life was loſt, and conſequently yours, or your Honor, reſolv'd whilſt it laſted to act ſome ſuch performãce as might repair the ſhortneſs of it, and the length of thoſe Miſeries it had ſo unfortũatly involved you in; Therefore as the Captain of the Guards came to take his Sword, he drew it, and paſt it through his Body; then crying out to Arſaces, you ſhall go with me, Sir, into another world to learn this great truth, that to kill you is a leſs Sin, than that you intend againſt Partheniſſa, or the permiting it; he ran furiouſly at him, & though ſo many hands endeavour'd to ſtop him, yet all they could doe, was to put his thruſt ſo much aſide, as that what was intended to the Body, only pierc'd his Clothes. Surena more troubl'd that he had miſt his deſigo, than at the puniſhment he knew atten-

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ded his having assum'd it, was returning, and though with a fury but equall to his former, yet certainly had had a superior success, when all that were present flew upon him, & forced his Sword out of that hand, which if any longer left, had doubtless acted a greater piece of Justice, than the Guards did in preventing it; and that which so much contributed to this easie Victory, was the deepe consternation amongst those few Friends of Surena's which were present, who not fancying he would have put things to so precipitate, and high an issue, fell into an amazement, which prov'd as fatall to him, as if it had bin their Treachery. The pale & trembling Arsaces, observing Surena was disarm'd, and that some of his Guards were going to revenge his danger, and their Captains Death, by the acting of Surena's, cry'd out to them; Hold, I command you on your Lives not to touch him, for the inflicting of a sudden Death will relish more of Passion than of Justice, & his Crimes make him a fitter Sacrifice for the last, than the first. Then commanding a Gentleman [illegible] who he made in that instant Captain of his Guards

Guards in the room of him that had freſhly loſt that office with his Life) to look to Surena as he would anſwer it with the loſs of his own; he forthwith gave order for a Scaffold to be erected before the Palace Gates, and ſolemnly proteſted, that on it, before the Sun ſet, Surena ſhould loſe his Life. He heard theſe laſt words as he was carrying away, and therefore turning about with a Countenance altogether quiet and ſerene, he told Arſaces, I thank you Sir, and I conjure you to keep your vowes; for the next ſatisfaction to the prevention of Partheniſſa's dishonor, is not to ſurvive it: Arſaſes only reply'd by a ſhaking of his head, and by a ſecond Command having made Surena to be carried away, forthwith ſent to the chief Tribunal of Iuſtice in Selutia, to ſit and condemn him. This order was no ſooner publiſh'd, but a Proclamation was alſo, that whoſoever appear'd in the Streets with Arms (except thoſe of the Guard) ſhould die without Mercie, & thoſe that any way related to Surena, which were found in Selutia after the expiration of one hour, ſhould be lyable to the ſame penaltie. This ſo precipitate and

brisk a proceeding with the ſecuring of Surena's perſon, and the placing of Souldiers in every convenient Poſt, ſo terrified thoſe Partizans of his alreadie in the Town, that wanting a Head to employ their ſwords, they payd an exact obedience to the Proclamation, and involv'd ſuch of their Companions as they met coming to Selutia in the ſame crime; Surena therefore was tamely brought before his Iudges, before whō he only would ſay, that all the ill he was guiltie of, was, that he had not acted what they were condemning him for having attempted. This ſhort reply made the Tryall the like, ſo that immediately he was adjudg'd to loſe his head, and by Orodes's command, who all the while was preſent, was ſent to the Scaffold to have the Sentence perform'd. This advertiſement being brought me, I went to the cruell King, not to beg Surena's Life, but only the permiſſion of ſeeing him loſe it: Arſaces granted my Requeſt, either not to diſoblige his pretended Solicitr ſs, or to puniſh my being ſo, in the ſight of ſo fatall a ſpectacle; I found my poor Brother on the Scaffold, who ſeeing me there, aſſum'd a joy I thought his con-

condition uncapable of, but I ſoon obſerv'd from whence it proceeded, for immediately he told me; You ſee Siſter, I am now going to loſe my Life for hir to whom I had given it, and if the now cauſe of my Death could but extinguiſh the juſt provocations ſhe has had ſo often to wiſh it, I ſhould eſteem it at a higher rate than ſhe can deplore the loſs of it. Tell her, I conjure you, that with joy I embrace my preſent condition, ſince I conſider it as inflicted on me for having obſtructed hir deſires, and from thence I cannot but conclude, that ſince the Gods ſo exemplarily puniſh a Paſſion which never had any other deſigne than to be volantarily approv'd of, and rewarded; they will doubtleſsly act much more to the magnifying of their Iuſtice, upon a Flame which alreadie is burnt into deſires of Luſt; and they will as certainly perform it while Arſaces's deſires are but deſires; leſt if once they were turned into action, they might be as uncapable of a fit puniſhment, as he of a reſembling ſin. Conjure hir, Zephalinda, to make this uſe of my Death, that it may bring both hir and me a ſatisfaction, which it may be any other way

will be deny'd to both. I confeſs the Gods have made me ſo miſerable, that all my performances have hitherto evidenc'd my adoration was not a debt to hir, but to my ſelf; I do therefore beg you by that *Friendſhip* & Relation which is between us, and by my laſt Breath, that upon my ſcore you will pay hir all the ſervices you are any wayes capable of; that one of the Family may in ſome degree repair the *Sins* of him that was the chief of it; that Partheniſſa may thereby know (what my unfortunate performances have not clearly manifeſted) that my Care of hir, was for hir, which I hope ſhe will not doubt of while I lived, ſince the effects of it will continue when I am dead. My laſt requeſt is, if ever you ſee the generous Artabbanes, beg him, when he remembers what I have done, that he would alſo remember what 'twas invited it; and then he cannot judge the fault greater, than the inducement to it; he will be too generous to hate me in my Grave, and I more than hope his reſentments will die with the object of them. Surena having thus ſpoken, embrac'd me, and took his eternall leave.

Then

Then going to the other extreamity of the Scaffold, he conjur'd the People to prevent their *Kings* Sin, ſince they could not but participate in the puniſhment of it; for the Gods would conſider every acceſſary as a Principle, and eſteem thoſe as guilty which hinder'd not *Partheniſſa's* diſhonor, as him that acted it. This was all he ſaid to them, leſt a longer diſcourſe might have bin interrupted. His *Soul* after ſhe had thus diſburthen'd hir ſelf ſeem'd to have more than a knowledge of thoſe happy Fields whither ſhe was taking hir eternall flight; for when he was laying down his Life, he did it with much more reſolution, that he had that took it from him, who perform'd it by ſeparating the Head from the Body at one ſtroak. The Spectators at that fatall blow, gave one common groan, and by killing the Executioner, ſhew'd how much they deteſted the Execution. *Their* Grief too had not contented it ſelf with ſo mean a Sacrifice, had not Orodes in perſon at the head of a thouſand of his Guards, come, and by killing ſome of the Multitude diſperſt the reſt. The poor Surena's Body I carry'd away with me.

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in the same Charriot I came in, and lay'd it in the Sepulchre of our Family. Here (said Emilia) the fair Zephalinda's weepings put a period to hir words, in which just duty, the sad Partheniſſa kept hir such faithfull Company, that one might have concluded she reserved no Tears for hir own misfortune she gave so many on Surena's. Happy Surena, that in one single performance couldst so efface the Crims of thy Life, as to have the deprivation of it so nobly deplor'd, and even by hir which had most reason to rejoyce at it. The first that interrupted the silence, though not the weeping, was Partheniſſa, who told Zephalinda; I have (Madam) bin so unfortunate to your Family, that if you will not grant me on the score of Charity, the means of that Death which I implor'd, confer it on me at least on that of Revenge, my misfortune and my condition doe equally require it; and you cannot in the performance more oblige your resentment, than you will me. It may be that the greatest misfortune Surena reliſh'd at his Death, was that he left me behinde, and the eminent danger too he concluded I was in-

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volv'd in by Arſaces's luſt. The extinction of my Life, will alſo redreſs thoſe apprehenſions in him, and it may be affoard him a proportionate joy, when I ſhall carry him the News how faithfully you have obſerv'd his deſires. 'Tis not Madam (ſaid Zephalinda) upon theſe invitations I am come to pay you my engagement, 'Tis upon your own and Artabbanes's accompt that I doe it; for I finde your condition is uncapable of all remedy, but by that which will in the future exempt you from needing any other; thereupon taking out a little Viall, ſhe preſented it to Partheniſſa, with more Tears than would have fill'd it, and told hir; In this Madam, you will finde that Sanctuary the Gods have deny'd your virtue, which I ſhould have offer'd you ſooner, But that my Brothers Phyſician, who compoſed it, was ſo near Death himſelf at the hearing of Surena's, that he could not earlier give me this effect of his Art; He aſſures me it is of a nature ſo ſubtle, that it conquers the vitalls, as ſoon as it touches them, and will affoard you as little pain in the operation, as you will relent after it. This is a preſent,

ſaid

(said the fair Partheniſſa, wipeing away hir Tears and kiſſing it) which I have too-little time remaining to acknowledge ſufficiently; but if in the other World our Condition admits the paying of ſervices, I will preſent you with thoſe there, which mine here denyes me the power of retributing; and as a ſignall earneſt of this Truth, I leave you the generous Artabbanes as a Legacy; ſhe deſerues him beſt, that does moſt for him, & you in this laſt performance have ſo clearly done ſo, that the very Partie is alſo the judge, and acknowledger of it. You that when the Gods cannot preſerve Partheniſſa fit for him, can doe it, doe become more ſo your ſelf, and it may be thoſe Powers had no other way but this, to abſolve Artabbanes's Conſtancy from becoming ſo much his puniſhment, as to prefer Partheniſſa before Zephalinda, who in all perfections is as much my ſuperior, as in a perfect Flame I am at leaſt hir Equall. The fair Zephalinda was about to reply, when one I had plac'd to diſcover when Arſaces was coming, came runing in to tell me ſo, which ſet a period to the diſcourſe they were engag'd in, and made

Partheniſſa

Partheniſſa uncover the little Glaſs, and ſay; 'Tis now no time to think of any thing, but by Death to prevent what is much more to be fear'd; with theſe words in a moment ſhe drank the fatall Poyſon, with a Conſtancie great as our Grief; I was (continued Emilia) ſo drowned in Tears & ſorrow, that though the fair Partheniſſa ſpake many things as remarkable as her very performance, yet all I can remember ſhe ſaid, was, a deploring the Invitation of hir death; which was ſuch, that hir hate for the infamous Arſaces, might ſeem to have an equall ſhare in it, to that of hir Paſſion and Conſtancie for your Prince. Zephalinda in the mean time went to a window, as if it had bin to discover how near Orodes was; but alas it was more undiſturbedly to pledge Partheniſſa in a reſembling liquor, which as ſoon as ſhe had perform'd, ſhe return'd to hir, but with a ſerener countenance, than that with which ſhe had left hir; and holding up the emptie Violl, told hir; This, Madam, will be my witneſs, that I ſerv'd not my ſelf, but you, in acting, what the Gods had left you but one way to perform. Your virtues ſhine ſo clear, that whilſt

I have them for my Guides, I can neither be mistaken in the way to felicitie, nor the end; and though this be a high Truth, yet it cannot Transcend this other, That the obliging Poyson I have drunk, will not more certainly make me wait on you now, than the beholding of Artabbanes's Grief, would have made me do it hereafter, when it may be the Then performance, would have reliſh'd, of what the now will abſolve me of. I had look'd like your Murtherer, not your Friend, had I not thus waited on you, ſo that what my Inclination leads me unto, my Reaſon and my Intereſt do, which are Inducements that none can condemne, with ſo much Iuſtice as that with which I obey them. The fair Partheniſſa, for a while only in Tears & in embraces acknowledged the disobligingneſs and gallantrie of this performance, in which latter Zephalinda held her company ſo ſtrictly, that I thought they would prove as unſeparable to each other, as misfortune had bin to both. She which laſt drank the Poyſon was the firſt that ſpake, and to the beſt of my remembrance, theſe were hir words; Having now payd the Iuſt and Antedated

tedated ſacrifice of our Tears to Artabbanes's condition, when he ſhall be inform'd of ours, let us abſolutely in the future ſilence them, leſt the Tyrant ſhould aſcribe ours, to his being one; and thereby, though he be actually deny'd the Triumph of his Love, he imaginarily poſſeſſes that of his Revenge. The Cruell Arſaces, ſaid Partheniſſa, cannot ſo Tranſcendently delude himſelf, as to aſcribe my Tears to his being ſo to me, when he ſees what the fair Zephalinda has done, which is of ſuch a Qualitie, that he will find his Triumph, though we are never ſo intent to cloud it; for I am reſolved he glories as much in the deſtruction of Virtue, as of Feminine Honor; ſo that what my reſolutiõ has deny'd him in the Latter, yours has conferr'd on him in the Former. Had I bin ſingle in my ſuffering, I ſhould have retrencht from him that Victorie; for to have bin Deny'd his hopes, would have as much eclipſ'd his ſatisfaction, as the Deſtroying of Innocence, and Conſtancie would have created it. I may, ſaid Zephalinda, as juſtly alleadge, he is not the cauſe of my Tears, ſince a Death which I eſteem ſo tranſcendent a mis-

fortune, as to believe the acting of my owne after it, is a leſs one than to ſurvive it, may well peculiarize my Weepings to that ſolearie cauſe: But whilſt we continue ours, he may at leaſt have ſome ſhadow for Inſulting, whereas if we intirely ſilence them, and in their Place aſſume an unclouded ſerenitie, he may conſider the Way in which we evade his Power, to be as ſublime a Trouble as the End. Here the fair Zephalinda was interrupted by the arrivall of two of Arſaces Guard, whom he had ſent to clear Parthenisſa's Chamber, of all, but hir ſelf; Theſe barbarous *Men* could not terrifie thoſe whom Death did not; all the effect they produc'd, was a Ioy that their ſanctuarie was ſo near, and certain, and that they had ſo timely reſolv'd upon it, that the burning Luſt of the Tyrant, could not be more ſurely a ſin, than that thereby they had put him out of the Capaſitie of acting it. To render that yet the more ſo, Parthenisſa began to protract the time, that the Fatall poyſon might conquer ſo much of hir Life, as to exempt hir as well from the beginings, as concluſions of Orodes's Inſolence, by reaſoning

ſoning with theſe infamous undertakers of a reſembling imployment. And though what had begun, too-pregnantly evinc'd the têper of their Souls, yet the Eloquence of innocence conſpiring with the ſight of ſo many admirable and groing Beauties, which were ſo near an eternall fading, operated ſo efficatiouſly, that they retir'd (diſſolving into Tears) unto their King, & acquainted him with the cauſe thereof, which alas was ſo far from having a proportionate Influence on Him, that what had converted them into water, turn'd him into Fire: For Iudging of the Cauſe by the production, they could not aſſume a higher Pitty, that thoſe Beauties were to be gathered, than he did a ſatisfaction that he was to gather them; Nay, his Reaſon was ſo obſcur'd, that he concluded they wept not that ſuch perfections were to be Enjoy'd, but only that They were not to doe it; ſo that having given them an high reprehenſion, for what deſerv'd the contrary, he went haſtily to Partheniſſa's Chamber, in whoſe countenance there was leſs diſturbance, then in his; which being a truth as viſible, as the occaſion was not (at

leaſt as to him) he told her; At length Madam, I hope the greatneſs of my Flame, & perſeverance, has obtain'd a Victory, which cannot be higher in it ſelf, than my deſires were of it; and your Face gives me a ſatisfaction which nothing can hardly augment, but your words giving me the ſame aſſurance which your Looks doe. If my Looks Sir (ſaid the Princeſs) gives you any other aſſurance than my Words have ſtill done, they hold no correſpondence with my Heart; ſo that either you are mistaken in my Looks, or my Looks in me. If (ſaid Arſaces) I am mistaké in the ſignes of my Felicity, I am certain I will not be ſo in the fruitions of it; & what the Power of my Love cannot act, that of my Authority ſhall; Yet I muſt confeſs I much rather ambition to derive my happineſs from the former, than the latter; and therefore I again proſtrate at your Feet my Crown, as well as Liberty; either deſerves the retribution, I but implore for both; your denying me my right, authorizes me to take it, and therefore you render force legittimate, if you neceſſitate me to it; My Paſſion is as uncapable of Delay, as Change,

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and had my Promiſe given you a longer time to forme your Reſolution, my love muſt have contracted it; ſo that I am come to know my Fate, which cannot admit of the leaſt ſuſpenſion, becauſe my Life cannot, if now deny'd that alone, which can give it a reliſh, as well as continue it an exiſtence; In ſhort Madam, this is the hour I muſt receive, or take my Felicity, & the Gods have as little the Power, as I, of altering this Reſolve. I know (ſaid Parthenisſa) you will be as much mistaken in your hopes, as you have bin in the ſignes of them. The Gods could not call themſelves the Protectors of Innocence, & refuſe a Sanctuary to mine; Know Cruell Arſaces, I have one above your Power to violate, which it was high time to aſſertain, when what ſhould have bin the cure of your Luſt, you conſider'd as an Authority to act it; know further, I deſpiſe your Crown, and Death to avoyd it; which is a Reſolution I might derive from a double cauſe; for had not my Conſtancy bin prevalent enough to ingage me to aſſume it, your uſage would be; which cannot with more neceſſity invite me to that performance, than

I will act it with Ioy. The degenerate Arſaces believing Partheniſſa had ſome fatall Weapon in hir power, that thus Authoriz'd hir to threaten an enraged King (for he knew hir too-well, to have ſo much as a ſuſpition of hir thus proceeding upon any other ſcore) ſuddenly ſeized upon both hir hands, and after commanding one of his Guards to ſearch hir, and to take the cauſe of hir Confidence away, he told hir with a furious look; The certainty of that Sanctuary which made you with ſuch inſolence deſpiſe me, & my Flame, is not in your Power, and you are in mine; ſo that what you refus'd with ſcorn, if you implor'd with Tears I would now deny unto you, in the ſame manner you declyn'd the aceptance of it from me; nor can the contépt you have endeavor'd to throw upon my Crown be juſtlier Reveng'd, than by the Power of it, which by all that's Holy, ſhall no longer beg, what it can take. Thereupon, with a Countenance which reliſht nothing but of Fury, and Luſt, he commanded thoſe which waited on him, to clear the Room of all but Partheniſſa; which was going to be put in practiſe, when he that Arſaces had

commanded

commanded to ſearch, and Disarm hir, told him, there was nothing about hir which could deſtroy hir Life, for the certaintie of which, he engaged his own. This ſtrange aſſurance made all the Tyrant's other Paſſions reſigne themſelves into Admiration, & that ſuddenly yielded it ſelf unto Joy; for he believ'd Partheniſſa had acted the Part of Deſpair, as a laſt eſſay, and then was reſolv'd to yield to what ſhe could not reſiſt; This flattering Faith was created in him, by hir having no viſible means to reſiſt his Power, in a time, when he had ſolemnly ſworn to conquer hir with it, if by his Paſſion & Perſeverance, he did not doe it by then. Neither did the fair Partheniſſa's ſilence all this while a little contribute to this belief; but alas, hirs proceeded from an other Cauſe, for by this, the Poyſon had made its fatall Approches, ſo near the throne of Life, that the hand of Death began to draw an obſcure vail over the vitall ſpirits, and ſo greedily to ſeize on the Noble dwelling of a Nobler ſoul, that Arſaces had ſcarcely proſtrated himſelf on his knees, to make Partheniſſa thoſe retributions, the joy of his laſt faith, had made him

esteem so just a Debt, when she began to retire to a Pallet, which she had no sooner reach'd, than she fell on it, and having breathed a sigh, and indistinctly Pronounc'd your generous Prince's Name, the Beauties of Vermillion, resign'd their Empire to the colour of Innocence, the fairest lights which ever did, or shall shine, became Eclips'd with an eternall Night, and the Admirable soul, of a bodie that was so, took her flight to an other, but could not to a Fairer Dwelling. Here the faithfull Symander was so vanquish'd with his own relation, that he had not the power to continue it; neither had his generous Hearers that of desiring him to do it, for they were so sensibly affected with this deplorable and fatall part of his Storie, that their Curiositie resign'd its room unto their sorrow, to which they so justly and unconfin'dly abandon'd themselves, that they fully justified the vast grief of Artabbanes, since they resenting so much only by their being Hearers of the Loss, they could not but expect much more from him that was the sufferer of it: At length they were so much friends to their Grief, that they con-

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jur'd the afflicted Symander by a continuance of his Storie, to divert them in ſome degree, from their being ſo intent on that ſad part of it. Symander, to obey this Command, by many ſtrugglings with his grief, finally obtain'd ſo much the victorie over it, as thus to proſecute what he had brought ſo near to a concluſion: This relation of the fair Partheniſſa's Death, which invaded you with ſo high a ſorrow, had ſo reſembling an operation on the unconſolable Emilia, that it was above an hour before hir tears and ſighes would permit hir to continue hir relation, which ſhe did in theſe tearms: As ſoon as the Barbarous Arſaces ſaw the fair Partheniſſa pale and breathleſs, he became ſo too, and continu'd ſo long in that condition, that I began to think, Grief had perform'd the office of Iuſtice, and had alone payd that debt to the Tyrant, which all the world does ow him; But he ſoon return'd again from his ſeeming Death, but it was to act ſuch violences on himſelf, that I thought his recoverie was a more ſignall puniſhment, than his dying could have prov'd; In a word, who ever had ſeen the demonſtration of his ſor-

row, would have concluded he was the ſufferer, not the Author of the Loſs. At length (tir'd with the actings of his grief, he continu'd quiet for a time, and then ran to Zephalinda, at whoſe feet proſtrating himſelf, he conjur'd hir to tell him, whether the Fears of his violence, had caſt Partheniſſa into a ſeeming, or had made hir caſt hir ſelf into a reall death: But this fair Princeſs gave him an anſwer by a demonſtration, for in that moment of time, the fatall Poyſon had ſo far conquer'd hir heart, that ſhe had only life enough left to recover the Pallet on which the dead Partheniſſa lay, and in embracing, and kiſſing hir, to expire, as if ſhe ambition'd in the laſt act of hir life, to evince the perfect friendſhip ſhe had payd hir thorough the whole courſe of it. At this ſecond death, Arſaces's grief turn'd into furie, he began to believe himſelf ſo horrid a Murtherer, that who ever he ſpake unto, was inſtantly ſtruck with Death, which though true, had bin a puniſhment inferior to his Sin; and in this belief, he ran frantick up and down the Chamber, crying in the perfect accent and

voyce

voyce of horror and deſpair, Gods! give me Partheniſſa again, give me Partheniſſa again; and after a thouſand friutleſs offers of ſeizing on the Swords of ſome of his Guards, he at length ran his head with ſo much violence againſt the angle of that great Cabinet which ſtood by the Pallet on which the dead *Partheniſſa* lay, that he thereby not only reciev'd a large hurt, but fell ſpeechleſs & ſenceleſs at *Partheniſſa's* Feete, where he continu'd groveling in his bloud, till his Guards carryed him into his own Appartment to have him dreſt. Here (ſaid Symander to his generous Hearers) the fair Emilia ended hir relation, and began again hir weeping in ſuch exceſs, that it even brought an acceſſion of grief, to that which invaded me by hir fatall Relation: Neither doe I believe ſhe would have ended hir Tears, but with hir life, had not hir care of Artabbanes bin greater than any ſhe had of hir ſelf; For remébring one of hir Princeſse's laſt injunctions to hir, was to let Artabbanes know her laſt to him, was, a paſſionat deſire of pardoning hir *Murtherer*, & a more paſſionate one, of ſurviving hir Murther, that as

ſhe carryed into the other World the higheſt modell and example of a perfect Love, ſo that he would continue the like in this; and that *Parthia* was miſerable enough in ſuffering hir *Kings* Sin, without the addition of enduring the puniſhment of it; ſhe conjur'd me to aſſume that employment, whilſt ſhe would pay the dead *Princeſſes*, the duty of Funerall (if hir grief left hir life enough to doe it, which ſhe hoped, yet fear'd it would.) Emilia further enjoyn'd me by an immediate return to Artabbanes, to prevent the fame of *Partheniſſa's* death, and by my acquainting him with hir laſt deſires, endeavour to prevent his. This I eſteem'd ſo neceſſary, that after having at Partheniſſa's and Zephalinda's *Feet*, payd the tribute of my Tears, and as much as I was capable of, attempted to leſſen the fair Emilia's, I went to Sillaces, and after to Lindadory's Appartment, where alas, I learn'd that in the confuſion of the late diſorders, ſhe had bin carryed away by ſome Arm'd, and unknown perſons, and that the generous *Sillaces* with what friends he could aſſemble in ſo ſhort a warning, was gone after hir Raviſhers. With

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theſe acceſſionall griefs, of the unhappineſs of my Prince's Siſter, and of my failing of ſo neceſſary and powerfull Conſolers as I was confident Lindadory & Sillaces would have bin to Artabbanes, I directed my ſteps to him, but with a heart ſo repleniſht with ſadneſs, that nothing could in degrees equall it, but the juſtice with which it was ſo. You may (generous Hearers) in ſome proportion imagin the ſtrangeneſs of my then employment, when I knew not whether I ought more to apprehend that any other ſhould give my Prince the fatall Intelligence of his Miſery, or that I ſhould; but the ſecond day I came to the place of his reſidence, where the horror which poſſeſt me by the perfect knowledge I had of what his ſorrows would be, at the information I was to give him, ſo vanquiſht all thoſe reſolutions I had aſſum'd during my journey, that not only I invok'd death as a pleaſing expedient to have declined it, but would have made uſe of it, had not I fear'd that Artabbanes by my that way of avoyding telling him his loſs, might have receiv'd it worſe, than by a verball doing it. But though this faith tied up my hand, yet

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by thoſe ſudden, & various emotions which did agitate me, I felt a burning ſhoot into my veyns, and that at firſt with ſuch violence, that I was in hope the feaver would confer that obligation on me which my affection to my Prince hinder'd me from conferring on my ſelf; or at leaſt if his deſpair for the deprivation of Partheniſſa were greater than his obediēce to hir, my ſickneſs would enable me to wait on him, without the help of my reſolution, or duty. At length (generous Hearers) at length I came into Artabbanes's Chamber, and though it were in high tremblings, with a pale look, and in vaſt diſorders, yet they hardly equal'd my Princes's at the ſight of mine: That generous Courage which had ſo often out-braved Death in all its horrors, which had ſo often unmoved endur'd, nay courted the higheſt dangers, was now conquer'd and yielded unto the bare ſignes of ſorrow in another; but alas, they were ſignes ſo clear, and evident, of the only way in which fortune, or the Gods had power to invade him, that in my being uncapable to tell him his loſs, he did but too-plainly read it. But

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at laſt, when Artabbanes perceiv'd that I had the power by words to acquaint him, with what my emotions made him apprehend was the cauſe of them, he told me; Are not the Gods yet (*Symander*) weary of perſecuting the miſerable Artabbanes, by the puniſhments they have impoſ'd upon him, but that they muſt alſo afflict him more cruelly, & ſenſibly through *Partheniſſa*? for doubtleſs thy grief is too-great for any miſery which can wound me, but through hir: Has any of my Ryvalls by force, or deluſion, got hir again into their power? or has hir juſtice now discover'd thoſe defects in the over-valu'd Artabbanes, which hir mercy ſo long hinder'd hir from ſeeing and puniſhing? ſpeak I conjure thee, for thy looks have as much of miſerie for me, as my Fate can impoſe upon me. Alas Sir (*I* reply'd) I muſt confeſs, your Ryvalls have at length got the ſucceſs, but 'tis not your old ones have done it, they have bin but inſtruments to convey hir from themſelves, as well as you; Your preſent Ryvalls are ſuch, that 'tis as great a Sin, as impoſſibilitie to reſiſt them; in the infelicitie of your Love, the excellenie of

your choice is manifeſted, and in the higheſt miſery of Love, you have the higheſt occaſiõ of evidencing yours hath bin the moſt pure, and moſt excellent; for if in your Paſſion, you were only concern'd in the object of it, ſhe is now in joyes, which will be ſo far from clouding yours, that they will be as uncapable of increaſe, as of change: You have now Sir, no more the occaſion of repining for the unequall'd Partheniſſa, ſince the Gods, who deny'd hir you, but to poſſeſs hir themſelves, have thereby taken from you the juſtice of ſuch a proceeding; and have confin'd you if you grieve, to evidence 'tis for your ſelf, not hir; who believing you were of a contrary principle, and that hir felicitie would create yours, ſtaid not till your new Ryvalls called hir, but elected to go to them. Thereupon I told him particularly all that I had ſeen, and all that I heard from Emilia; but I had no ſooner ended this fatall relation (what through the indiſpoſition which then invaded me, what through the horror and grief which I ſaw invade my generous Prince) than I fell at his feet, and though my ſences at that inſtant did not abandon me,

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yet it was but to be the more cruell, and the more tormenting; for I ſaw and heard, that after Artabbanes had fetch'd a groan from the bottom of his heart, which ſhewed the greatneſs of it, by its being capable to cõtain ſo much, he cry'd out; You are dead fair Princeſs, you are dead! and you dyed for Artabbanes: ah too-great & too-ungratefull heart, which canſt know this, & yet canſt live after it; but I will pũiſh thee for needing any help but thy own to act thy dutie; yes ungratefull heart, thy debt to my Princeſs ſhall be paid, though not by thee; My Reſolution ſhall have the glory of that performance, ſince thou haſt declin'd it, or at leaſt art ſo long in acting it. Thereupon he ran furiouſly to his ſword, and having drawn it, reſting the hilt upon the ground, and leaning the point to his Breaſt, he cry'd out; Divine Partheniſſa! what you have done, leaves the miſerable Artabbanes nothing to do, but to admire, and follow you, the firſt he has ſtill perform'd, and the laſt he now performs. Theſe words were no ſooner utter'd, than by falling on his ſword, I ſaw the fatall point of it, having pierc'd his bodie, appear all

bloudie, as if it bluſh'd at the ſin it had acted. Oh Gods! (Symander cry'd out) why did you give me life enough to ſee, and not life enough to prevent it? and yet it might be juſt in them, that for my being griev'd they were happier than my *Prince*, I ſhould behold & not hinder his deſpair. But Artabbanes, who knew how requiſite death was to his condition, and how oppoſite I would be to that only cure, as if having opened two doors for his Soul to free hir ſelf from that dark *Priſon* ſhe had bin confin'd unto, were not enough, he ſtriv'd to employ that little life was left, to take even that little totally away; & doubtleſs had repeated his wounds, if my horror thereat, had not given me a ſupernaturall ſtrength, & enabled me on my hands, and knees, to crawl to him, and to ſeize upon the hilts of his ſword, on which I took ſuch ſure hold, that ſpight of all his ſtrugglings, I kept him from additionall wounds, & by my loud & reitterated cries, drew ſome of the people of the houſe to my aſſiſtance, who with me, by meer force wreſted the fatall weapon out of his hands; which being effected, my *Prince* with a Look in which a crowd

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of different paſſions were diſtinctly viſible, told me, And is Symander too become my Enemie? ah! if thou haſt a hatred for Artabbanes, canſt thou more ſignally ſatisfie it than to ſee him ſend himſelf out of the World? and if thou haſt a Friendſhip for him, why doſt thou retard his following Partheniſſa? with that fair Name his Sences abandon'd him, and left his body inviron'd in that deluge of bloud, which had flowed out of it. This Swounding, which at firſt made me tremble, ſoon after made me rejoyce; for thereby the Chyrurgion (who then came) without reſiſtance ſearch'd, and dreſt his wounds, & having layd him in his bed, they there endeavor'd by powerfull Cordialls to recall that life, which ſeemingly had forſaken him. I caus'd them to lay me in a Pallet contiguous to my Prince's bed, where in expectatiõs, which raviſh'd from me all ſence of my own condition, I waited for the effects of the Chyrurgions Art and preſcriptions: But alas, the fear I aſſum'd that death had eternally cloſed his Eyes, could not tranſcend my grief, when that apprehenſion vaniſht;

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for the first proof he gave of life, was an action which sadly demonstrated, how intent he was on the destroying of his; for finding his wounds bound, he tore away all things the Chyrurgions had apply'd to them, and endeavor'd to make his hands finish, what his cruell Sword had but begun; But those I had order'd to watch and hinder the effects of his despair, by plain force, and by my command, held his hands; at which he assum'd so high a rage, that in words deliver'd with much more strength than I thought he had bin Master of, he told me; Cruell Symander, and much more cruell than Fortune, yea than Arsaces himself; they but make the highest cure necessary, but thou after it is so, do'st deny it me. I conjure thee by that love thou once did'st pay me, by that adoration I pay my divine Princess, who I now behold clothed with more Glory, than she has bin with misfortune, and by those Tears (unusuall Advocats for me) permit me to follow hir: with that he shed such a shower of them, that I was for a time unable to answer him in any other language, which my Prince perceiving

ving, he told me; Canſt thou then Symander, give me the higheſt ſignes of pitty, and deny me the leaſt act of it? and canſt thou be ſenſible of my miſeries, and deny me their only Cure? Ah Sir (I reply'd) what is become of that Fortitude, which in all the ſtrangeſt, and intricateſt Revolutions, and viciſſitudes of Fortũe, has alwayes made you triumphant over hir? has it abandon'd you, or have you abandon'd it, in a ſeaſon where it was moſt neceſſary? What will the World believe to your prejudice, when you your ſelf act ſo much to it? your virtue which now is the admiration of all, will be believ'd the miſtake of all; for when any thing can befall it greater than it ſelf, 'twill be thought it hath acquired its glory, not from its own ſtrẽgth, but frõ the weakneſs of its oppoſers. Hold thy Peace (ſaid my Prince interrupting me) hold thy Peace, 'tis no wonder thou haſt loſt thy concern for me, when thou haſt loſt thy reaſon, which if thou hadſt not, thou could'ſt not but ſee, that that fortitude thou ſo flattereſt me with, never aſpir'd at ſo certain a felicity, as thy cruelty hinders hir from poſſeſſing: That which thy Mad-

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neſs tearms deſpair, my reaſon tearms fortitude; which high virtue is not given us to continue our miſeries, but to overcome them: Mine are of ſo peculiar a quality, that if my fortitude ſhould continue my Life, 't would act againſt it ſelf, as much as againſt me: No Symander, my Fortitude never ſo well deſerved that Name, as now that it has made me chearfully elect to act my owne death, which certainly cannot be a ſin, ſince 'twill reunite me to the divine Partheniſſa: had the Gods deſign'd me Life, they would not have taken away hirs; and the duty of not killing my ſelf, by which I muſt be baniſh'd from my Princeſs, cannot be ſo great as that of killing my ſelf, to be reſtor'd unto hir. But Sir (I reply'd) what Face can you preſent your ſelf to your Princeſs with, when to act your ſatisfaction, you decline your duty? and leave this world without revenging your ſelf on him, who ſent hir out of it, and diveſted you of all Felicity in it. This (ſaid Symander) I ſpake in expectation that ſuch a duty might qualifie for the preſent the violence of his deſpair, & that time might ſilence it in the future; but

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alas, I soon found the vanitie of that hope, by my Kings thus answering me: If I were not certain 'twere a higher Mercie to kill one of my Princess's Votaries after hir death, than not to doe it; I would not beg the blessing to become my own executioner, and therefore I will not so much oblige the Tyrant, as to become his: The Gods who know the greatest Crime merits the greatest punishment, doe now evince that truth on that Monster; For the certaintie that to be the fair Partheniſſa's executioner, is the greatest Sin, cannot be a greater Truth, than after having acted it, 'tis the greatest punishment to want fortitude to be his own; and since Life is the torment of my Princess's Murtherer, how can it be the satisfaction of hir adorer? besides, I am confin'd, and I believe on this score of hir last commands, from embruing my hands in his Bloud. So you are (I reply'd) from embruing your hands in your own, and that request, nay rather command, impos'd with much more earnestness than the other; ah Sir, consider how much your despair offences your Love, and how unlike this proceeding is to any other of

yours, where your Princeſs's commands have acted you? you can decline becoming the executioner of hir Murtherer to obey hir, and you will not decline becoming your own, when you have a higher confinement to it: this is not to obey hir, but your ſelf, or rather your deſpair, by going to hir in the other world, when ſhe orders your continuance in this, and when that order was pronounced with hir laſt breath, you ſhew you value ſomething above hir cõmands, which is a crime you have hitherto declin'd with ſo much care, and ſhe has acknowledg'd with ſo many Elogies, that your now running into it, evinces nothing ſo pregnantly, as that hir Memorie has not the ſame Aſcendant over you, which hir Life had, though ſhe loſt hirs, but to continue the more gloriouſly in yours; conſider too, I beg you Sir, that the more painfull the obedience is, the more meritorious 'tis; that common obeyings are not fit ſacrifices for Artabbanes to offer, or Partheniſſa to receive; and that the crime of disobedience cannot be the way to ſo admirable end, as is your reunion with hir: Yes Sir; I tremble to think how ſhe will receive

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you, when the laſt act of your Life, is a violation of the laſt command of hirs. Thou doſt delude thy ſelf Symander, thou doſt delude thy ſelf (ſaid my King, interrupting me) the Divine Partheniſſa knew too-well the greatneſs of hir loſs, and the juſt ſence I ſhould have of it, to enjoyn me the impoſſibilitie of ſurviving it: I rather aſcribe that to thy crueltie, than hir commands; or if ſhe impoſ'd that on me which thou ſayſt ſhe did, it was but the better to illuſtrate the vaſtneſs of my Love, which by contemning my own Life, hir Revenge, and my dutie to hir commands, manifeſts it is ſuperior to all thoſe: ſo that by my Death, I ſhall but evince a truth I moſt ambition'd in my Life; nay, which at any time I would have laid down to witneſs; which is, that my Love was as much above all other concerns, as the Beautie which inſpir'd it was above all which ever inſpir'd that Paſſion: Let not then thy cruelty denie my Flame, the moſt glorious manifeſtation of it; nor let me derive that from Time, and from Torments, which my reſolution is ſo obligingly readie to confer on me without any; nor flatter thy ſelf with believing

lieving Time can change a resolution, which is as irrevocable, as that misfortune which has made me so justly assũe it: no Symander, thou mayst tie my hands, thou mayst hinder them from acting my Death, but thou canst not hinder me from dying; for I here solénly protest by the highest powers, & by my Princess who has increased their number, that I will neither eat, nor drink, nor sleep, 'till the want of those confer that felicity on me, which thou hast so barbarously deny'd me. Then turning himself from me, in a shower of Tears, he seem'd to continue those reproches which they had interrupted. I cannot (generous Hearers, contínu'd Symander) acquaint you with what grief I entertain'd this vow of my Kings; I knew his resolution too well, and the power he thus had to act it, not to tremble when he pronounced it, and if at first I had any consolation, it proceeded from an unremoved resolve of sharing in his despair; if at last I could not silence it; but this being a thing which related to my self only, was soon expell'd by a throng of cares, which my duty to Artabanes introduced, who continued so cruelly

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true to his vow, that for four and twenty hours after he had made it, not all my Prayers, and Tears, could invite him to take any refreſhment by food or ſleep, by which he was ſo extreamly weakened, that he had not life enough ſo long again to repeat his abſtinence, which when I tould him in ſighs, and weepings, he anſwer'd me only in ſmiles, & by them ſeem'd to tell me, that though his way of dying were not ſo expeditious as that I had deny'd him, yet it was as certain. In this unequall'd miſery, when both my reaſon and my hope had reſign'd themſelves unto deſpair, the Gods inſpir'd me with an invention which 'till now I never did diſcover, and which but to you I would not. Symander having nicely look'd whether any were in the Chamber, & whether his Prince were within hearing in the Gallery, and being ſatisfied negativly of both, thus reſum'd his diſcourſe; I knew too well my Kings deſpair was ſo great, that no remedy which was not ſo, could ſuppreſs it, and that his vows were not to be cancel'd, but by thoſe to whom they were addreſt; 'twas therefore, that calling to me a Youth which belong'd

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to the houſe in which we lay, and who during Artabbanes's indiſpoſition, had ſhew'd ſo much concern in it, and care for him, that I concluded him fit for any employment conducible to his recovery I enjoyned him in the blackeſt hour of Night, to conceal himſelf behind the hangings, which was next my Princes bed, and by unriping a part of it, to convey a hollow Cane, as near Artabbães's Ear as he could, without puting it within the reach of his hands, and then in a counterfeit hollow voyce, to ſpeak thrice (and with ſome good intervall) theſe enſuing words; *Artabbanes, go to Hierapolis, there conſult, and obey the Oracle.* The time to execute this being come, which was three hours after it was deſign'd, and indeed my Prince's condition could not well admit of a much longer delay, the faithfull Youth had ſo well fitted all things, and ſo excellently diſguis'd his voyce, that I almoſt began to believe, the Gods (who knew nothing but themſelves, had the power to ſuſpend that deſpair, they had involv'd him in) had undertook that Juſtice: As ſoon as Artabbanes heard the voyce, he called me, & told me,

me, Symander, does my Fancy conſpire with thee, and with Fortune? or doe I really hear a voyce, which commands me an obedience more cruell than thy late uſage? I was about to reply, when the ſecond time, the firſt words were repeated, and they were no ſooner ended than I cry'd out as ſurpriz'd; At length Sir, at length, you ſee my endeavour to hinder your deſpair, was not my Sin, for if it had bin one, the Gods would not have imitated me; nor can you any longer doubt their care, when to evince it, they make uſe even of a *Miracle*. He was about to have reply'd, when the voyce the third time enjoyn'd what it had twice before; after which Artabbanes cry'd, No Symander, I never doubted of their care, nor of their making uſe of Miracles to ſhew it, but then that care, and thoſe Miracles were only to torment me: Ah Gods! how can you, having done ſo little for me, expect ſo much from me? and why do you enjoyn me life, when you have not only taken from me all the *Felicities*, but alſo left me all the Torments of it? Ah Sir (I reply'd) the reaſon of Man is too ſhort, & dull to reach

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and pierce the wayes and Providence of the Gods, which commonly delight to contradict, & crosse what we do seem most cõfident of, partly by shewing us the uncertaintie of humane things, to wean us from them; partly to have us center wholly in their power, which such a dealing is no ill way unto: Thus have the greatest Miseries bin as often cur'd, as the greatest loyes have bin extinguish'd. Whilst Partheniſſa was alive (said Artabbanes) that is, whilst there was a possibilitie I might be happie, I did undergo all my afflictions with a silence, great as themselves, and with a resignation which shewed I knew the ambition of my Flame, deserv'd those sufferings, which I alone ascrib'd to that cause: But now the cruell Gods have made my miseries past their power to cure; with what justice can they hope to retain so much Empire over me, as to expect I should act a performance they themselves cannot reward? & how can the destroying of so unfortunate a Life be esteem'd a crime? for where an obedience is above recompence, the disobedience cannot merit punishment; No Symander, I rather believe they command

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me to continue in this Life, that I may not ſee my loſs in the next; for what Surena and Arſaces have bin to me in this world, the Gods are in the other. If they are Sir (I reply'd) then Partheniſſa governs them, and conſequently ſhe would not permit them to command you a fruitleſs Miſerie. Alas (ſaid Artabbanes) doſt thou not know, that though my earthly Ryvalls did adore hir, yet they did perſecute me? why may not I expect from Heaven the like effects, from the like Cauſe? No Sir (I anſwer'd) for whilſt the fair Partheniſſa's Soul was inviron'd with an earthly dwelling, ſhe could not ſee ſo clear as now ſhe is all Spirit; ſo that now you need not doubt hir knowledge to foreſee your ills, nor hir power to prevent them; and therefore you have nothing to doe in this command, but to obey it: I am confident Sir, this miraculous injunction proceeds entirely from your Princeſs's care; your now Ryvalls, if you made your own execution the way to hir, might denie you the end you thereby expect, and that too without making any new Laws, but by their obſerving thoſe to which all Mortalls are confin'd; per-

haps she has represented so truly your Miseries, that she has procur'd a command to the Oracle of Hierapolis, to ordain you by death to put a period to them, that thereby the guilt of the performance may be taken away, and consequently the punishment, which doubtless she apprehends as much upon hir own score, as yours. If that were so (said my King) why did not the same voice which enjoyn'd me to seek my Death (for that only can be my cure) at Hierapolis, command, or at least permit me to act it here? The cause Sir (I reply'd) is evident; Every common Lover, in the first dictates which his Mistris's death inspires him with, would flie unto that cure you now are so intent upon: But when you do evince, that Time which heals all others griefs, does but increase yours, and that every moment your Princess's death makes you willing & readie to act your own; that will evidence your Love and Sorrow equall their causes, & that the effects of your Passion are as peculiar, as the Beautie which inspir'd it: Even Arsaces would, in the first furie of Partheniſſa's Loss, have done as much as you: shall the depri-

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ved hopes of a vitious Flame, have as high a production as thoſe of a virtuous one? ah Sir, provoke not the world ſo much to miſtake the nature of your grief, as to give them but equall illuſtrations; ſhew us what was but fury in the Tyrant, is reaſon in you, by acting your Death for Partheniſſa's, when he has forgotten hirs: The higheſt production of grief being to die, and he having elected that, you have no way, but by Time, to make the difference: It would cloud the beautie of your performance, if it were in the heat of your Loſs, and make that look but like the greateſt Rage, which is the greateſt Love.

I ſhould be endleſs (generous Hearers) did I tell you all our reaſonings, 'tis enough you know, that at length I obtain'd the victorie, and that which chiefly gave it me, were the two inducements I mention'd laſt. I muſt not omit acquainting you, that I elected the Oracle of Hierapolis for the place where my King was to learn his Fate, not only becauſe it was the moſt celebrated in all Aſia, but alſo becauſe it was ſo diſtant from the place we then were in, that it would ne-

ceſſitate him to a perfect recoverie, to enable him to perform the journey. Never any man loſt his health with more unwillingneſs, than Artabbanes recover'd his; and thoſe things preſcrib'd him he took in ſuch a way, as manifeſted Life was his obedience, not deſire: Should I tell you all his extravagant reaſonings, his vows of acting his own death, if the Oracle gave him any ambiguous anſwer, & his high repinings againſt the Gods, for having kept the power of puniſhing, when they had loſt that of rewarding him, I ſhould injure your patience too much; in apprehenſion I have done ſo already: I ſhall conclude all by acquainting you, that I wonder'd he had ſo much obedience for thoſe Powers for whom he had ſo little reſpect; to whoſe providence he yet owed the recoverie of his wounds, which being ſo well cloſ'd as to permit him to ride, we began our journey, which was the ſaddeſt that ever was perform'd; for my King for the moſt part kept a deep ſilence, and when at any time he broke it, it was in ſighs and groans, or in repeating the fair Name of Parthenissa, evidencing thereby,

that

that she only occasion'd them. The third Night we came into a Village, whither after Artabbanes was gone into his Chamber, there came certain Gentlemen from Selutia all in mourning, of whom I had the curiosity to enquire what News that place afforded; one of them told me, that the Death of the Princess Partheniſſa and the Princess Zephalinda took up all the sorrow and busines of the Court, and that Arsaces continu'd in as deep a Melancholly, as if the cause of it had bin recent; that he had lately celebrated their Funeralls distinctly: That though Zephalinda's was with much solemnitie & State, yet Partheniſſa's was with much more: & that in imitation of Alexanders Funeralls for Hepheſtion, Arsaces had caus'd all the Spiers, the Pinacles, and the Battlements, both of the Temples and the Pallaces, in Babilon, Niniveh, and Selutia, to be beaten down; and order'd that all in his Empire (which were able) should for the revolution of twelve Moons wear close Mourning; That he had caus'd Partheniſſa's Statue to be made by an admirable Artiſt, which he had erected at the end of a large

Gallery all hung with black, which had no other light but what it receiv'd from one hundred christall Lamps, whose flames were continually fed by an artificiall oyl, which hardly admitted of any diminution: That at the feet of this Statue, he had plac'd his own, kneeling, weeping, and fixing his Eyes on that Beautie's, who seem'd to have communicated to the Alablaster hir living insensibility: That every day when Arsaces's grief gave him strength to visit this Gallery, he constantly spent half of it, at the fair Princess's feet, & imitated or relieved his Statue: This Gentleman further told me, that though these Deaths, and this strange way of deploring them in Orodes, left little room for other sorrows, or discourses, yet some there were, who did both grieve, and wonder, at the strange forcing of the Princess Lindadory's Pallace, at hir being carryed away by unknown persons, and at the not hearing since what was become of hir, or the Prince Sillaces, who the same Night had follow'd hir Ravishers. This News (continu'd Symander) I thought unfit to communicate to my Prince, lest it might bring

bring an acceſſion to that grief, whoſe extinction was my higheſt care. The next morning therefore we continu'd our journey with our accuſtomed ſilence; but when we came within a dayes journey of this Palace, there happen'd an accident which I cannot but acquaint you with. Not far from the Road in which we travell'd, near the ſide of a little Grove, we discover'd eight Horſemen, who aſſaulted a Gentleman that defended himſelf with ſo much reſolution, as ſhew'd the difference of the numbers did but render the Combat equall. My Prince mov'd with the generous Strangers Courage, and apprehending at length he might ſtand in need of his, pulling down the ſight of his Helmet, with his Sword drawn he gallop'd up to him juſt as one of his Enemies had kill'd his horſe, by whoſe fall he was ſo much disorder'd, that had not Artabbanes by a furious blow kill'd one of thoſe who preſt him the moſt, the Stranger undoubtedly had exchang'd Fates with his Enemies Artabbanes having thus reliv'd a danger which was impoſſible any other way to be effected, ſuſpending his Sword in the Ayr,

and

and commanding me to doe the like with mine, addreſt himſelf to one who ſeem'd to be the chief of thoſe who had begun ſo unequall a Combate, and told him; Though I am ignorant in the cauſe of your Quarrell, yet I have ſome reaſon to ſuſpect it is not juſt, becauſe you depend upon your numbers for your ſucceſs; yet if you pleaſe to acquaint me with it, I will ingage my ſelf no longer to defend your enemie, than I finde my ſelf confin'd unto it, by the duty of Juſtice. Who ever thou art (the other reply'd with an inſolent tone) who haſt made thy ſelf my Enemie, and then wouldſt have me make thee my Iudge, know our difference does not concern thee; but ſince thou haſt made thy ſelf ſo much a Partie, I will make my ſelf the Iudge, and doe condemn thee to ſhare in that death, thou vainly endeavour'ſt to hinder. Thereupon he darted his Iavelin at my Prince, who receiv'd it in his ſhield, and then charg'd him ſo briskly, that he found his courage proportion'd his inſolencie; this uſage had no unfruitfull return, and though it deſerv'd a ſignall puniſhment, yet he receiv'd an honor that was

ſo,

ſo, dying by the hand of Artabbanes. By this time the Stranger had mounted himſelf, upon the Horſe of the firſt man that was killed, & furiouſly thruſting into the midſt of his enemies, by two unreſiſtable blowes, leſſen'd as many of their number; the reſt amazed at our aſſiſtance, and at thoſe admirable deaths, made ſo faint a defence, that the Combat ſoon ended, with their Lives. The Stranger then lifting up his Helmet, which was ſhaded with a great Plume of Feathers of Aurora colour, as his Armour was of the like, and garniſh'd with ſuch refulgent Stones, as ſufficiently manifeſted their Maſter was of no ſmall Qualitie, came to Artabbanes with ſo much Grace, and Majeſtie, that I was charm'd with it, and told him; Generous Stranger, I ow you my Life, and will at any time pay you that debt with as much ſatisfaction as I contracted it; but I muſt beg your Pardon, if a conſideration much higher than my Life does now force me from you, which I ſhould acquaint you with, did I not juſtly fear the time it would take up, would hinder me from paying a dutie to a Princeſs, who before the obligation you placed on me, merited all Mine, and even yet does me-

rit the moſt of it: But that I may not hereafter be guiltie of that ingratitude, which my higheſt concern makes me ſeem guiltie of now, I muſt deſire to know my Protectors Name, that when the Beautie I ſerve has no further employment for my Sword, & Life, I may know where to offer both, to him, to whom I acknowledge I ow them, and for whom I will with much more joy employ them. Artabbanes, extreamly ſatisfied with this Gallantrie, and as much mov'd with the Cauſe of that haſte the Stranger ſeem'd to be in, reply'd; My Name, generous Stranger, is as unconſiderable as the little ſervice you are pleaſ'd to think I did you; But were it as great as your acknowledgements, I ſhould yet conceal it, leſt you might thereby believe I pretended to a debt, you have but too-abundantly ſatisfi'd alreadie: You retribute ſo much for ſo little, and you thereby appear ſo worthy to be oblig'd, that I cannot but offer you my ſervice in the relief of that Princeſs you are ſo intent upon, the inequallitie of your late combat, makes me believe your Enemies are not acted by the principles of Honor, and therefore if not for your own ſake, yet for hirs you ſo much

value.

value, and who perhaps ſets a greater rate upon your Life, than you do on your own, refuſe not the aſſiſtance of a ſword which has bin fortunate enough againſt all, but him that wears it. This ſtrange concluſion had doubtleſs given the Stranger a Curioſitie of deſiring to know what occaſion'd it, if the great haſte he was in had not ſuppreſt it, which was ſuch, that it hardly gave him leaſure to make this Reply; You cannot be ſo unjuſt to your ſelf, and me, as to conceal your Name upon the ſcore you mention, and therefore I believe ſome high cauſe invites you to it, which ſhall ſuſpend my deſire of learning it; Your virtue I am confident will guide me to you as certainly as your Name, and upon better conſiderations; that way of enquiring after you, will be more Noble, and as ſure: I confeſs I have the high Felicitie of being valued by the Beautie I adore, and the misfortune of having an Enemie and Ryvall, who cares not by what wayes he reaches his ends; but by your valour you have cut off his chiefeſt aſſiſtance, and his Crimes are ſuch, that I ſhould injure the juſtice of the Gods, if I thought a ſingle ſword which ſtrikes with

Iuſtice, were not able to act my Revenge, & my Princeſs's Deliverance: Beſides, I am ſo much your debtor both by act and offer, that I ſhould give my ſelf a greater trouble by becoming more ſo, than by undertaking alone the deſtruction of thoſe few Enemies your Courage has left me. That is a conſideration (ſaid Artabbanes) which your civilitie only has raiſ'd; but your valor is ſuch, that by thoſe effects of it which I have ſeen, I can hardly doubt of any other; I will therefore only beg your pardon for having done your Ryvall more ſervice by delaying you, than I have done you, in endeavouring to aſſiſt you; and that you will give me ſo obliging a Proof of your having granted it me, as the acquainting me with your name. I ſhould obey you (ſaid the Stranger) if it were not to make my ſelf fruitleſsly known nnto you, which would be a manifeſting of my ſelf too-low, both for the obligations, & the ſence I have of them: Permit me therefore to decline that honor 'till I derive it from my ſervices, which I will ſeek you over all the world to pay you, as ſoon as I am put into a capacity of doing it, by having pay'd mine unto my Princeſs, the neceſſity of whoſe

condition

condition I beg may appologize for my now leaving you, which nothing elſe could make me hope for, or invite me to. Thereupon ſaluting my *Prince* with much humility, and haſte, he turn'd about his horſe and follow'd the Tract of a Charriot with ſuch celerity, that we ſoon loſt ſight of him. Artabbanes was ſo much taken with the good *Meen* and civility of the generous Stranger, & ſo ſympathiz'd in his concerns, that he ſuſpended his uſuall melancholly to entertain me with them, which yet he did but for a little time, and then in his accuſtomed manner, continu'd his journey hither, where we arriv'd without meeting any thing elſe worthy your knowledge, and where my *King* has receiv'd an Oracle, which makes me hope what I conſider'd as an invention of mine, was an inſpiration of the Gods.

'Twas thus Symander ended the Hiſtory of his *King*s Life, and then beg'd *Par*don from his generous Hearers for the length of his Relation, & for all thoſe faults he had bin, or thoſe omiſſions he might be guilty of.

Artavaſdes and Callimmachus having

both tooke notice with much civility of Symander, and acknowledged how well he had acquitted himself, went to Artabbanes in the Gallery, who though they found in an excesse of sadnesse, yet by the knowledge of its cause, they were so far from condemning, that they participated in it. But the good Callimmachus, who knew the Gods promises to him, & their power of performing them, on those two Subjects, endeavour'd by the assistance of Artavasdes, to change his sorrow into Faith, which yet prov'd but a fruitless attempt; For Artabbanes knew the utmost extension of Faith was to act above reason not against it, and therefore found in his own condition, too-high a certainty of its admiting a change. Severall dayes were spent in such succesles employments, and to recover the two Princes out of a dangerous relapse, into which they were fallen, whose cure had retarded their intended Sacrifice ordain'd them by the Oracle: but Callimmachus finding the Princes in perfect health, and esteeming it high time to obey the imporsition of the Gods, as also believing the Beauties of a little Forrest in which the Temple of Adonis and the

Vestall

Vestall Nunns stood, might be some diversion to their sorrows, invited them thither; It was not above forty furlongs from the Temple of Hierapolis, and a place of so much delight, that a Melancholly which was capable of ease might be certain of receiving it there. Artavasdes, who burnt with impatience to make a journey into Parthia, to offer his Sword & Life unto Altezeera, which the words of one of his dying Enemies made him apprehend she stood in need of, would before this invitation have gone whither his love, and duty called him, had his health permitted it, but now it did, and Artabbanes also (who he was unexpressibly troubled to leave:) a new difficulty arose which was like to interrupt his voyage for a few days, which was, that those Arms he had wore at his coming to the Temple, were too rich, and too well known to his Parthian Enemies (as by a fatall experiment it had near bin demonstrated) to travell with them into a Country where his only safety would consist in his not being discover'd: To redress which inconveniency, he was forced to bespeak less-rich Arms in the Citie of Hierapolis (which is not a above

above Ten furlongs from the Temple) and those not being like to be finish'd in a longer time, than this journey would take up, he joyn'd his desires to Callimmachus's, which were so prevalent with Artabbanes, that he Promis'd to accompany him in that little journey, so that daring it, Callimmachus would engage to acquaint them with his Story; which having done, he took leave of them for that Night, And the next morning early he waited on them again. Though the way was but short, being yet too long to be performed without Horses, the generous Priest provided some for them, as good, as ever Arabia produced, & mounted on one of that Country himself, they set forth. They had not gone a Furlong when the two Princes summoned Callimmachus of his promise, which he found a much easier thing to have made than to perform, and having testifi'd this Truth by a few sighes, which a reflection on those fatall accidents he was going to relate extorted from him, he at length, with a deep Melancholly, began the Relation of his Adventures, in these tearms.

The end of the eight, and last Book of the second Part of Parthenissa.